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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Envoy Says Azeri-Armenian Talks Progress 'Moderate'

MK1509104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Leonid Velekhov in the "Negotiations" column: "Rumors That the Fate of Lachin and Shusha Has Been Decided Are Strongly Exaggerated. Armenia's and Azerbaijan's Approaches Have Merely Been 'Approximated'"]

[Text] In a telephone conversation with SEGODNYA's correspondent, Ambassador at Large Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's representative at the negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh, did not confirm the report aired yesterday that the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan at their meeting in Moscow agreed on a solution to some key and most controversial issues of a Karabakh settlement. According to the report, Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev agreed on returning the Armenian-held town of Shusha to Azerbaijan and on placing the Lachin corridor—the only communication line linking Karabakh with Armenia—under international control. According to Kazimirov, this and other key problems were discussed and a result, "the sides brought closer their approaches on ways of acting in these specific situations." The approximation, according to the Russian presidential representative, occurred "on the basis of proposals by the Russian mediator." Kazimirov thought it was premature to spell out this statement any further.

In general he described the progress that has emerged at Armenian-Azerbaijan Karabakh talks in Moscow at deputy foreign minister level as "moderate." The talks, he said, have been moving in jerks, and the rare breakthroughs in coordinating the text of the draft political agreement on terminating the conflict are often interspersed with prolonged deadlocks. The differences are not only of a textual but also a conceptual character.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Sep

LD1609062494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0551 GMT 16 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI run the full text of an ITAR-TASS interview with presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov who emphasises that "civil accord is now only in an embryo state. It should be strengthened. It is precisely along these lines that the president intends to work energetically to influence the political process".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reports that Sergey Filatov, chief of the Russian president's staff, in an ITAR-TASS interview, spoke about the advisability of arranging simultaneous elections of a president, the State Duma, and administration chiefs in territories and regions and holding them on the Russia Independence Day, June 12, 1996.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reports the signing of immigration control regulations.

The drafting of a document on immigration control continued for long and proceeded with difficulty, although the problem was long ripe. It is not today or yesterday that Russia turned into an increasingly widening transit corridor through which Asians and Africans try to get mainly to developed countries of Western Eruope and Scandinavia.

Now that immigration control regulations have been signed, one of the first moves will be to establish centres for the provisional accommodation of immigrants, as is required by the norms of a civilised state, said Stanislav Petrunin, chief of the Federal Migration Service's directorate for migration control arrangements.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an interview with Colonel General Anatoliy Kostenko, Belarusian minister of defence, who dwells on the problems of developing the Belarusian Army.

"Russia and Belarus have concluded 16 treaties and agreeements on various aspects of military cooperation. Unfortunately, not all of the documents work owing to the lack of an effective mechamism for implementing them and not all of them receive, one can say, the most-favoured treatment at the executive level.

"For example, we have an agremeent on the training of military cadres. I am on the horns of a dilemma: either I should send cadets and officers to russia for studies or enlarge byelorussian military schools and found an academy as soon as possible.

"We now have to pay an amount of money equivalent to 900 U.S. dollars to Russian for the training of one our officer cadet at the Russian Military Academy of the Genereal Staff and pay 550-600 dollars for the training of a cadet".

Expressing his attitude to the idea of creating joint or coalition armed forces of the CIS, Kostenko said: "This idea is rather attractive to me, just as, for certain, to many military professionals. Its realisation would substantially strengthen CIS countries' defence capability and would promote their closer military integration. But let us be realistic—the idea is hardly practicable today or tomorrow. We have gove too far apart since 1991"

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on an anti-laundering bill:

"The meaning of a future federal law 'On responsibility for the legalisation of criminal incomes' is to prevent the possibility of laundering money through financial and banking instituttions. A bill to this effect is to be drawm up and submitted within a month by a working commission whose composition has been confirmed by the president of Russia.

"Yevgeniy Novikov, deputy leader of a working group for the drafting of a federal law and deputy head of the Russian Interior Ministry's main department on economic crimes, believes that such a law is utterly essential to regulate the entire system of bank credit operations".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on autumn trade union action.

A recent meeting of repreostatives of sectorial and regional trade unions that are members of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions (FITU) in St. Petersburg slated an all-Russia trade union action day for October 27.

The action will be taken in the form of meetings, processions, demonstrations and, possibly, stoppages of work.

"The planning of autumn protest actions by the FITU can, of course add political weight to trade union leaders but it will hardly promote the accomplishment of quite concrete tasks of protecting the working people from specific culprits of dismissals, wage payment delays or poor labour safety measures".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Azerbaijan Vice-Premier Abbas Abbasov on his countrys relationships with Russia and Turkey.

"Azerbaijan's uniqueness is that by virtue of its special georgraphical position, it must become an ethnopolitical bridge between Russia, Turkey, and Iran following the collapse of the iron curtain which for long separated the outlying regions of the Soviet Union from neighbouring countries".

IZVESTIYA runs an article by Alexey Yablokov, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Ernst Cherny, member of the social chamber to the president of Russia, about the protection of whales.

"The latest decision by Foreign Ministry officials to withdraw Russia's voice in support of an amendment concerning the establishment of a whale sanctuary in the southern ocean has held our country up to ridicule.

"We, contrary to the earlier taken decision and to the opinion of expert scientists, now openly side with Japan which was the only country voting at the international whale commission meeting against a decision to establish a whale sanctuary."

The newspaper also carries a Russian Foreign Ministry reply, from which, IZVESTIYA notes, "it is unclear whether the ministry withdrew our country's signature to the decision or not."

PRAVDA and a number of other publications report that the leadership of the office of prosecutor-general has lodged an appeal with the presidium of the supreme court of the Russian Federation against the verdict of not guilty for general of the Army V. Varennikov.

Grachev Interrupts Inspection To Visit Abkhazia

LD1609095194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev has interrupted his visit to the Moscow military district and flew to Abkhazia today.

Departs on Yeltsin's Instructions

LD1609101494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep—Russian Defense Minister Army Gen Pavel Grachev broke off his tour of army units in the Moscow military district today and left by air for Abkhazia. He interrupted his tour after a telephone conversation with the Russian Federation president, who instructed him personally to investigate the situation and meet with Georgian and Abkhaz leaders. The defense minister intends to discuss the problem of the refugees' return to Gali district in Abkhazia.

Pavel Grachev disclosed this today prior to his departure for Gudauta from the "Chkalovskiy" military airfield.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the possibility of his meeting the Russian Federation president, Pavel Grachev said that after his trip he would report to the head of state, who is currently visiting Sochi, either in person or by telephone. He did not rule out the possibility that the Russian president would meet with Eduard Shevardnadze and Vladislav Ardzinba.

Pavel Grachev noted that the situation in the region is fairly tense and that the Georgian and Abkhaz sides have different points of view on the problem of the refugees' return. Therefore, he sees his objective as being to "get the leaders together and to sort out once and for all what we are striving for, what we want".

The defense minister refused to say how many days he would spend in the region. "I will be there for as long as is necessary," Pavel Grachev said.

Insists on Return of Georgian Refugees

LD1509221294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Aleksandr Goryanov] Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev has said in an interview with INTERFAX that the return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia will begin tomorrow, 16 September. Meanwhile, both INTERFAX and ITAR-TASS note that the return of the refugees planned for the morning of 14 September did not in fact begin. Official Sukhumi has said that the actions of Russian peacekeeping forces, with whose help it is planned to carry out this process, are in contravention of documents signed earlier.

[Begin Defense Minister Pavel Grachev recording] What is the reason for the delay? Well, one can see there is an unwillingness on the Abkhaz side regarding the return of the refugees. But the situation is, and life is, such that the people must return. They must return to where they were born and where they have left their homes. [end recording]

[Goryanov] Everyone knows that the path to peace in the region is very long, much blood has been shed, and it is impossible to resolve the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict at a single stroke.

[Begin Grachev recording] When the refugees return, it will be impossible under any circumstances to withdraw our peacekeeping forces, and together with...[pauses] As the residents and refugees return, they must be reconciled and peace restored. [end recording]

[Correspondent Ruslan Khashig] The situation in Abkhazia is complex today. Judging by the presence of military hardware in the town of Sukhumi itself the heightened combat alert is being maintained. The parliament of the Abkhaz Republic in a statement has expressed serious concern at events yesterday on the border between Abkhazia and Georgia. The Supreme Soviet of the Abkhaz Republic thinks that only the voluntary, controlled, and orderly return of refugees can guarantee their safety, and favors the strict observance of the terms of the quadripartite agreement. The command of the Russian Federation peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia reported today that the heightened combat alert announced yesterday for subunits of the peacekeeping forces had been lifted today.

No illegal actions have been recorded over the past 24 hours on the confrontation line along the Inguri River. To date, however, only 20 out of 42 observers' posts of the Russian peacekeeping forces have been restored.

Vladislav Ardzinba, the chairman of the Abkhaz Republic's Supreme Soviet, and Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev had another meeting in Sukhumi today at which they discussed issues relating to the situation in Abkhazia's Galskiy rayon.

[Correspondent Georgiy Ratishvili] The situation remains extremely alarming in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. Several tens of thousands of forced migrants are waiting at a bridge over the Inguri River to start the process of returning home and have been driven to despair. Neither peaceful protest actions nor even a hunger strike declared by the refugees have helped. The road to their homeland remains closed. A group of deportees have now blockaded the roads, pitching their tents right in the middle. What will be their next step?

It became known today that Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev had talks with the command of the Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia. Pavel Grachev said if something happened he intended personally to fly to the conflict zone to bring order and investigate on the spot. Maybe it will be this that will help to reach a final resolution whether the refugees will eventually be able to return to the land of their forefathers.

Shevardnadze, Yeltsin Discuss Conflicts, Ties

LD1509123894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1214 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By unidentified GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 15 Sep—At noon today a telephone conversation took place between Chairman of Parliament and head of state of the Republic of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze and President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin. Official sources announce that in the course of the conversation, "topical questions concerning the settlement of conflicts and bilateral relations were discussed." It is also pointed out that the conversation "took place in at atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructiveness."

Moscow Calls Karabakh Negotiations 'Rough Going'

LD1509180794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The second round of negotiations for a comprehensive political settlement to the Nagorno Karabakh crisis closed in Moscow on Wednesday, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told newspeople on September 15.

Without going into details, Demurin described the negotiations as "rough going" but said the negotiating teams advanced "by leaps and bounds." It was his impression, Demurin said, that not everyone was interested in an early political settlement.

Moscow expected the negotiating teams to show more flexibility and willingness to compromise, he said.

The Armenian-Azeri summit, held in Moscow under Russian mediation on September 8 and 9, created more favorable conditions for the peace process, Demurin pointed out. What the summit did first of all, Demurin said, was to secure the cease-fire introduced on May 12, 1994.

According to Demurin, Moscow brokered an agreement on the exchange, via the International Red Cross organization, of women and children detained or jailed in Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia. Azerbaijan and Armenia had already exchanged women and children on Red Cross lists and on September 15 Nagorno Karabakh was to hand 26 Azeri women over to Azerbaijan, Demurin said.

Demurin said that Moscow had suggested the warring parties exchange the wounded, the sick and elderly POWs.

U.S. Move Against Haiti Seen Imminent

MM1509154394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Vadim Markushin: "Clinton's Haiti Card"]

[Text] Does U.S. President Bill Clinton need "his own" military victory? Some kind of dramatic military show with a happy ending? It is a tricky question. In spite of the seemingly accepted axiom: Any victory prompting a rush of patriotism from the population is capable of boosting the government's authority. An elegant victory, without major losses, even more so.

The attitude of today's White House boss toward this kind of drug for his country is bound to be complex. Indeed, on the one hand, a swift military success in restoring legality in Haiti would do him no harm. Gaining this kind of kudo through extraordinary actions on the domestic front—say, in the sphere of taming the criminal world—is significantly more difficult.

On the other hand, the American President and his administration are obviously unable to shake off alarming forebodings that, having become involved in Haiti's affairs, they will somehow voluntarily bring upon themselves the heavy burden of additional worries. Primarily, of course, the worries of arbitration, deciding what is constitutional in that country and what is not. There is nothing to smile about in this mission, as it is easy to imagine just how many people with grudges and scores to settle with their enemies have gathered here. Nor is there any getting away from the economic problems, or, more precisely, from work on restoring the ruined economy. Including, incidentally, damage done as a result of the American embargo.

As a rule, hot on the heels of the euphoria surrounding a regular blitzkrieg, a time of counting chickens before they hatch and dealing with the caustic remarks of critics strong in hindsight inevitably has to be gone through. Whether or not all this will pass off quite painlessly for Clinton's popularity is hard to say. Particularly if you bear in mind his ever-falling ratings: As yet, promised economic growth can only be observed in analytical calculations by experts, and it is not being felt in the pockets of the voters.

But be that as it may, the imminent climax cannot nevertheless be avoided. The military junta in Haiti is continuing to refuse to yield to the world community's call to resign. At the same time, it is showing its readiness to go to extreme limits by inflaming the self-sacrificial sentiments of its supporters through military parades and processions.

On the other side of the barricades, in compliance with all the rules of the diplomatic and military art, preparations for the invasion are under way. On this score, there is the UN Security Council resolution. There is agreement on the part of 17 countries, including several Latin American ones, to participate. Finally, U.S. marines are being drilled systematically and openly, with the aim, on top of everything else, of visibly demonstrating to the whole world: This is not an impulse, this is not a sudden whim, this is not treachery.

People are already talking about deadlines for the start of the intervention: It may even be in the next few days. They are also reporting on the manning levels of the expedition force—up to 18,000 people, of whom around 1,500 make up subunits assigned by other countries. These latter groups will not be deployed directly in the assault. They will probably have a more dangerous role linked with restraining violence and disturbances, those indispensable companions of any chaos.

Readying of Haiti Population Reported

MM1609103994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Vadim Markushin: "Warning Messages From the Sky for General Cedras. What Kind of Leaflets Are Being Dropped Over Haiti?"]

[Text] The psychological operation launched on the eve of armed intervention in Haiti is a graphic illustration of the fact that in the current episode of modern military history everything takes place in exact accordance with well-rehearsed methods. The aim of such operations is explained in field manuals: to weaken the opponent's will to resist and undermine the fighting morale of his subunits and units.

The content and tenor of this propaganda offensive are also executed according to the instructions of specialists in this field. On the one hand, a reasoned demonstration of the "just character" of the action being undertaken under the UN flag. On the other—a comprehensive discrediting of the military junta regime. The points of this plan are highlighted by Radio Democracy. Its transmitter, which has a capacity of 10 kilowatts, has been set up, it is claimed, on a USAF warplane.

The directives about taking account in propaganda material of the national character of the "target of influence" are also strictly carried out. For example, the first leaflets dropped by U.S. pilots in 3 million copies contain elements of the high style. "The sun of democracy, the light of justice, the warmth of reconciliation"—all this is promised with the restoration of the government overthrown by the junta to Haitians who, so it is believed, are not indifferent to a poeticized vocabulary.

But poetry is poetry; the main argument remains force. The equation here is clearly not in favor of the Haitian Army, which possesses, according to the American press, several artillery pieces, which are only fired on festive occasions, one ship with an operating engine, one new helicopter, and a fine detachment of sorcerers and charmers, ready to call down the powers of darkness on the American landing party. In this connection the show of strength by the "coalition" is acquiring an increasing intensity and scale. U.S. battleships are patrolling ever nearer to the island's shores. Planes warning Gen. Cedras of the seriousness of the intentions of the U.S.-led international "legion" are swooping ever lower over the ground with their deafening roar.

True, some observers believe that this rattling of sabres does not really intimidate the Haitian generals, who enjoy the effective support of a significant proportion of American public opinion, which does not approve of the forthcoming intervention. The junta is evidently retaining the last hope that Clinton will simply not commit himself to his threatened use of force. Trying to dispel such doubts, the U.S. President's national security adviser, Anthony Lake, says: "At stake are trust in the United States, its ability to defend democracy." Familiar turns of phrase. Thus the likelihood that the invasion will take place in the next few days, as the British are saying today, "should be taken positively rather than negatively."

Idealism, Pragmatism Behind Haiti Invasion

MM1509185194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by own correspondent Yevgeniy Rusakov: "American Guns Will Determine Which Kind of Government Haiti Needs—The Haitians Will Pit a 7,000-Strong Home Guard With Nine Guns and One Broken Aircraft Against U.S. Aircraft Carriers, Missiles, and Naval Assault Forces. Is There Really Any Doubt About Who Will Win?"]

[Text] New York—The risky game which the leaders of the Haitian junta were playing with Washington in the hope of carrying off a bluff is over. "Their days are numbered," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry say. Displaying before journalists pictures of the victims of the military junta's terror, U.S. President Bill Clinton declared that time has run out.

As far as it can be understood, the American troops landings will begin this weekend. The aircraft carrier "America" has been dispatched to Haiti's shores, where 15 U.S. warships are already located, and yet another aircraft carrier, the "Dwight Eisenhower," will be dispatched Tuesday with 2,000 soldiers on board.

Thursday evening (it will be early in the morning of the following day in Moscow), the White House chief will speak on television explaining the need for, and aims of, the military operation in Haiti. In a year and a half of the Clinton presidency, this will be his first major address to the country on a foreign policy problem.

Such are the times: In the era following the end of the Cold War, and for the first time in 60 years, a president has emerged in America who is not too captivated by world politics and moreover can permit himself this.

Meanwhile, two-thirds of Americans and the majority of legislators are inclined against intervention. "Haiti is not worth the life of one American soldier"—this is their slogan. And this is not just an fit of demagogy: Unlike some of our military leaders who never even thought to consider human lives, the Americans have always—particularly in the era of television—reacted keenly to every death of an American soldier.

One of the aims of creating a mighty armada with an overwhelming advantage is to reduce losses to an absolute minimum. It is no secret here that the slightest error will cost the administration and its chief dear.

In its campaign in favor of the Haiti operation, the White House is making use of arguments both of an "idealistic" nature, in the sense of fighting for lofty principles, as well as of a "realistic" pragmatic nature.

For the first time, the use of force is justified with reference to one of the underlying postulates of the "Clinton foreign policy doctrine"—to promote the "expansion" of the zone of democracy on a global scale. At the same time, it is stressed that only two nondemocratic regimes have remained in the Western hemisphere—in Haiti and in Cuba—and the unpunished overthrow of a lawfully elected president and the reign of terror in one of these countries sets a bad example for Latin America, which for more than 150 years has suffered from military coups. "If we cannot impose order close to home, then what moral right do we have to judge Bosnia or Rwanda?!" administration representatives ask.

Among the pragmatic arguments, mention is made of the mass emigration from Haiti prompted by the terror. And again—a favorite hobbyhorse of American politicians of the Cold War times, particularly under Reagan: the need to maintain the "credibility" of the words and actions of Washington. After all, rhetoric which is not backed by deeds, including the use of military force, may backfire as serious trouble for the interests of the United States in the most unexpected place.

The slow and visible growth of the military armada, and public discussion of the details of the upcoming operation, pursue the aim of intimidating the junta leaders, forcing them to leave the country at their own free will in order to facilitate the operation in Haiti.

But the U.S. troop landings will take place regardless, as even after the flight of the dictator and his accomplices there is a danger of bloodshed between the supporters and opponents of President Aristide.

The operation on Haiti will consist of two stages. In the first stage, around 20,000 American troops will land along with 1,500 other participants from a multinational coalition. They will be opposed by the ill-trained 7,000-strong Haitian Army with its nine field guns and one broken aircraft. All the predictions are that this army will take to its heels. But there is a danger from individual "partisans."

The first phase in the operation will be implemented by the multinational coalition according to the mandate of the UN Security Council "under the leadership of the United States" for the purposes of restoring Aristide to power.

The second phase, which will begin in about a month, will turn into a UN peacekeeping operation directed at the restoration of democracy and stability in the country. It is suggested that 6,000 "blue helmets" will participate in it. Of these, one half will be Americans.

The Caribbean crisis 1994-style is being taken very seriously in America. At times, you get the impression that is is a matter of a major operation like "Desert Storm," which culminated in the routing of the Iraqi Army.

The next few days will demonstrate whether the operation, a name for which—"Storm in the Caribbean"—suggests itself, will become a storm in a teacup, or something more dramatic.

UNSC To Vote on 'Softening' FRY Sanctions

LD1509151994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] A high-ranking official at the Russian Foreign Ministry described reports of the renewal of flights between Moscow and Belgrade as "preliminary."

The diplomat said in an interview with Interfax that the air link between Moscow and Belgrade could be reestablished only after the UN Security Council [UNSC] on partially softening the sanctions against Yugoslavia is adopted and enacted.

"The resolution will be automatically enacted as soon as the mission of the International Conference on ex-Yugoslavia confirms that Serbia and Montenegro are strictly observing the embargo on the delivery of strategic goods to Bosnian Serbs and the UN Secretary General introduces the appropriate report," the diplomat said.

The same source announced that the UN Security Council will vote on two resolutions no later than the middle of the next week. The first resolution provides for softening the sanctions against Belgrade and the second one for toughening the sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs. They rejected the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina proposed by the contact group on ex-Yugoslavia, he added.

"If Aeroflot is technically prepared, the air link between Moscow and Belgrade could be opened as soon as observers declare that Serbia and Montenegro are observing the sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs," the diplomat said.

He did not rule out that the contact group including Russia, the U.S., Britain, France and Germany, will meet in ex-Yugoslavia next week in order to add momentum to this process so that the situation can be resolved by the end of the month.

Yeltsin To Present Initiatives in UN Address

LD1509132494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] On 20 September, the 42d session of the UN General Assembly starts in New York. There are 160 items on its agenda covering the whole spectrum of life all over the world. Grigoriy Karasin, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry information department drew journalists' attention to the particular features of the forthcoming session at his traditional briefing at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Karasin recording] The forthcoming session will be remarkable for a number of things. It is being held on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Organization. [passage omitted]

The Russian Federation has brought forward an initiative suggesting that the agenda of the 42d session of the UN General Assembly include the issue of marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We have tabled a draft resolution on proclaiming 1995 the world year of nations' remembrance of the victims of the Second World War. We believe that this profoundly humanitarian initiative by us will get the necessary support from the international community.

For Russia, particular significance is lent to this session by the forthcoming address to be delivered by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. This will be the first address to the international community from the rostrum of the United Nations by the president of the new Russia, a Russia liberated from the yoke of the totalitarian past, which is building its own democratic, civilized future.

In his speech, the Russian president will be presenting a vision of our country as a great power, which was among the founders of the United Nations and is a permanent member of its Security Council, a vision of ways of establishing new international relations and settling the main problems of the world community. In this context he will be making a number of initiative proposals. [end recording]

It is thought that the Russian president will meet the leaders of a number of states.

Kozyrev on Mideast Talks, Bosnian Arms Embargo

LD1509224894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2040 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Igor Pshenichnikov]

[Text] Tromso, 16 Sep—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has said that the talks between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which were held in Oslo last Tuesday [13 September], with Norway as a mediator, were a "step forward" on the way toward a settlement in the Middle East. He stated this after his talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal, which took place here on Thursday [15 September].

Replying to questions from ITAR-TASS, Andrey Kozyrev said that the Norwegian diplomats had once again succeeded in bringing the Israeli and Palestinian side closer together. Among other things, a decision was reached in Oslo concerning the financing of the Palestinian police in the Palestinian territories which have been granted autonomous status.

Andrey Kozyrev also said that at the talks in Tromso an agreement was reached on the exchange of information between Moscow and Oslo on the development of the situation in the Middle East and progress toward a settlement.

Andrey Kozyrev pointed out that Russia is willing to contribute to the peace process in the Middle East. In this connection he revealed that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Moscow again in the very near future. Moscow is also contributing to a settlement in the Middle East regarding Israeli-Syrian relations.

During the Russian-Norwegian talks the subject of Bosnia was raised. Andrey Kozyrev recalled Russia's position. The lifting of the embargo on deliveries of weapons to the Bosnian Moslems, he said, would mean the failure of the peace efforts. "We must seek an alternative variant," the Russian minister stressed.

Foreign Ministry Official Against NATO Expansion

LD1509164494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—The extension of the NATO and the zone of its responsibility to East may entail the complication of the situation on the European continent and cause a crisis of confidence in relations among the countries, which were admitted into the bloc, and those states, which will find themselves outside this military and political organization.

This viewpoint was expressed by Mikhail Demurin, official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, at a briefing here today.

The Russian diplomat said this in reply to recent statements made by U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore and German Defense Minister Volker Ruhe. The latter said in particular that the NATO had an agreement in principle on admission to NATO of countries of the Visegrad Group—Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia as equal members in the near future.

It is doubtful that the aims of economic reforms and democratization advanced by countries of Central and East Europe can be reached only through the membership in the NATO, Mikhail Demurin noted.

On the contrary, if the trend towards reanimation of bloc structures grows in strength, this will be fraught with new complications and may cause a split in Europe. Such a turn of events would run counter to the line on the formation of unified democratic Europe, the official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry pointed out.

"We are in favor of transformation of the NATO just as other similar structures in the direction which would take into consideration modern realities," Mikhail Demurin stressed.

At the same time he expressed confidence that a "hasty and rash" extension of the NATO would not meet the interests of European security.

Direction of NATO Evolution Viewed

MM1509120094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 3

["Military Review" by Manki Ponomarev: "NATO's Evolution. In What Direction?"]

[Text] It is 45 years since the North Atlantic Treaty came into force. This laid the foundations of the Western powers' military-political bloc. Obviously, this date was also what prompted a number of notable articles in the foreign press, devoted to its fate and prospects.

Differing opinions are expressed on this. Certain authors are very skeptically inclined. Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who published a long article in THE WASHINGTON POST, speaks frankly, for instance, of the "steady erosion of the Atlantic Alliance" which for nearly half a century was the cornerstone of American foreign policy, and even, indeed, of its emasculation in present-day conditions. The authoritative German journal EUROPAEISCHE SICHERHEIT holds a diametrically opposed view. It asserts that NATO is today consolidating its positions and "is in the forefront of European security policy." In between these extreme positions, opinions of every possible hue can be found.

There are certainly grounds for this diversity of views—these grounds are inherent in real life, in the conditions taking shape in the world in the period when the Cold War has ended and a final line is being drawn under the postwar era. It is therefore of undoubted interest to trace the arguments of either side.

Adherents of the pessimistic view of NATO's present-day role are patently affected by nostalgia for the past. They condemn any attempts to identify the alliance with the remnants of the Cold War, and regard it, particularly in connection with the Partnership for Peace program, as a means of appeasement, not of ensuring security. There is criticism of plans to unite in a single alliance the North Atlantic Alliance, the states that have succeeded the republics of the former USSR, the countries of the disintegrated Warsaw Pact, and the European neutrals. "NATO was set up to ensure security; its aim was to confront danger," Kissinger writes. "The Partnership is designed not for defense, but for reassurance." The genuinely new aspect of Clinton's foreign policy, he continues, is that it sets the goal of creating an Atlantic area from East to West, radically overturning the structure of the postwar period.

All this, in the pessimists' view, is fraught with the risk of NATO's policy increasingly escaping from U.S. control. That is what worries influential circles across the ocean. They are convinced that the prospect of Russia's possibly joining NATO will in effect mark the abolition of the alliance as a safety net protecting "Western democracy" from dangers and threats.

That is one point of view. Trying to sum it up, you could say: The adoption of the Partnership for Peace program on Washington's initiative is leading to the erosion of the North Atlantic bloc and ultimately its final collapse.

Meanwhile, the adherents of the opposite approach are convinced of NATO's viability. In their opinion the alliance has succeeded in adapting to the changes in the world. By adopting the Partnership program the alliance demonstrated its ability to deepen not only military cooperation, but cooperation in general in the sphere of security policy throughout Europe.

To respond successfully to new challenges, the January meeting of heads of state adopted a decision to create so-called "Joint Tactical Forces" (JTF).

The basic idea of the JTF concept is the creation of mobile headquarters uniting formations and units of all branches of the armed forces, which has not hitherto been the practice. The JTF will enable NATO to react more rapidly and fully to relevant CSCE and UN demands. At the same time it makes it easier for states which are not NATO members to coordinate their participation and operations in a given peacekeeping mission under the alliance's overall leadership. The transfer of command power to other alliances, such as the WEU [Western European Union], will also be simpler, in cases where NATO is unable or unwilling to act.

True, the speedy implementation of the JTF concept is unlikely at present. In particular, it will be necessary to revise certain structures of the allied command of the bloc's armed forces, and that could lead to a prolonged coordination procedure. But there is already agreement in principle, and that is the main thing.

Finally, the optimists believe, life has shown that combat capability, or in other words, military might, remains the basis of any European order. And that was always NATO's alpha and omega.

For all the contradictions of the aforementioned views, what they have in common is that they are voiced "from inside"—by the NATO people themselves. How does it all look from outside?

If you examine who needs NATO today and why, it becomes obvious that the purposes for which the bloc was created no longer exist. Even the most diehard Atlanticists realize that there is now no question of a "threat from the East." Yet the purpose of the alliance's existence was to confront that threat.

Furthermore, there is now simply no question of a threat to the NATO countries' security at all. Although there are alarming events in the world, although military conflicts break out here and there—even on the periphery of the bloc, as, for instance, in Yugoslavia—they pose no direct threat to the alliance members. So what is it all about?

Naturally, nobody is publicizing this, but I think several significant features can be identified in the quest for an answer to this question. First, there are the misgivings prompted by the possible development of events in Russia, the destabilization of the situation here, and even the loss of control of its mighty nuclear arsenal. These misgivings are, of course, understandable, but they hardly have any real basis today.

Second, there is Washington's desire to maintain control over Western Europe, which, with the formation of the EU [European Union], is becoming an increasingly serious competitor to the United States in the political and especially the economic sphere. It is no accident that the United States intends, for a prolonged historical period, to maintain here a grouping of no less than 100.000 of its troops, and control over NATO's military structures. It is also no accident that it is now pinning its hopes not on Britain, but on Germany—the most powerful state on the continent—as its privileged ally.

Third, there is the carefully concealed, but certainly nonetheless real and even increasing fear, in a number of European states, of Germany and its transformation into the continent's hegemon. It does not matter how far this fear has any real foundation. Historical memory is not so easy to erase from the consciousness. That fear, incidentally, is the explanation, largely, for the stubborn desire of a number of countries of Central and Eastern Europe to become full NATO members. They see the North Atlantic Alliance as the guarantee of their security not only on their eastern borders, but above all on the western borders.

That is why, despite the clear recognition that NATO is a relic of the Cold War, none of the members wants to abandon the North Atlantic Alliance. There is complete unanimity here. The differences of opinion arise only when it comes to improving this organization and adapting it to today's realities.

U.S. Navigator's Remains To Be Flown Home

LD1509215994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Antonov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—"Seeing off the remains of a U.S. pilot whose plane was shot down 42 years ago near the Kuril Islands, we are saying our farewell to the last stereotypes of the Cold War", Major General Anatoliy Volkov said on Thursday at mourning ceremony at a Moscow airport.

"In the 42 years since the loss, this is the first instance in which we have been able to locate and recover the remains of any of the eight crew members aboard the RB-29", the U.S. embassy in Moscow said in a statement.

A joint team of Russian and U.S. investigators exhumed the remains two weeks ago on Yuriy Island, one of the Pacific Kuril chain.

Experts have tentatively identified the remains as those of Captain John Robertson Dunham, the navigator of an RB-29 reconnaissance aircraft shot down by Soviet fighters on October 7, 1952, the statement said.

Radio Liberty's Move to Prague Noted

MM1509110394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Rustem Urmantsev under the "Pertinent Notes" rubric: "Radio Free Europe Is Moving"]

[Text] A significant event has occurred: By decision of the U.S. Congress Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty are moving from Munich to Prague. Thus radio voices which until recently we used to describe only as "hostile" will very soon start broadcasting from the capital of a postcommunist country. Still fresh in my memory are the visits which armed state security officers used to pay to the editorial office. In exchange for a signed receipt, they would hand over sheets of paper stamped "top secret": At that time only a limited circle of leading persons was permitted to read the "radio intercept"—God forbid that an ordinary citizen be "infected" with subversive Western information.

Today, however, Czech President Vaclav Havel rates the fact that an outpost of anticommunism—Radio Free Europe—is moving as an important political and strategic event bringing the former socialist camp closer to the West. Germany's FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG went even further: In its opinion, the radio station's establishment in the Czech Republic is "equivalent to moving NATO from Brussels to Brno." "With the move to Prague, Radio Free Europe will no longer be the force that played a huge role in the fall of communism on the old continent. It is needed today only to ensure that communism does not come again," John R.

Clegg, one of the radio station's public leaders, declared in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

These are the political aspects, so to speak, of the upcoming move. There is also a purely economic aspect. The United States can no longer afford to finance the Munich radio monster, which currently employs 1,000 journalists and specialists. In Prague the cost of maintaining the headquarters (it will be housed in the building of the former Federal Assembly of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) will be far less, and the staff will be reduced to 400 people. True, the cost of the move will be considerable: The U.S. Congress has allocated $257 million for this purpose. Prague City Council in turn has made a friendly gesture—the two radio stations will pay one symbolic koruna a month (one-thirtieth of a dollar) to lease the premises. But the main receipts will, of course, come directly from the U.S. budget.

Prague tradesmen and house owners are overtly glad at the upcoming move—it has been estimated that it promises them an annual income of up to $40 million. The mood in the Munich radio center is far worse: Serious personnel cuts lie ahead, and the affluent life in affluent Germany is ending for many people.

Boeing Publicizes Research Center in Moscow

MM1509140594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Boeing Helps Us Stop Brain Drain Without Forgetting Its Own Interests"]

[Text] The Boeing Corporation would score 100 points more than any of our "hush-hush institutions" in terms of its ability to keep in-house secrets. Only a year after they opened their scientific and technical center on Moscow's Ogarev Street did the Americans acquaint journalists with its work for the first time 14 September.

The idea of setting up the scientific and technical center, in whose studies and developments leading personnel from Russian institutes are taking part, has fully paid off, the center's general director, M. Frend [name as transliterated], said in a conversation with the newspaper's correspondent. There are just two Americans and four Russians on the management, but the number of specialists involved in the implementation of joint projects has topped 200. They began with three programs concerning the most important problems facing world aviation, and there are now over two dozen such areas of scientific and technical study and practical research.

I will not list them—they are highly theoretical or very specialized—but one of the projects is worth mentioning because of its topicality. Sophisticated aerodynamic models of wing profiles are being developed using powerful computers installed at the center. The use of computers will make it no longer necessary in particular to conduct costly and dangerous experiments in the air like the one that caused the recent crash near Yegoryevsk.

The Americans say that they are trying to establish a system of business relations and cooperation not with individual outstanding specialists but with prominent Russian scientific establishments—the Central Aerodynamics Institute, the All-Union Aviation Materials Research Institute, the Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics, certain research institutes in St. Petersburg, and the Novosibirsk Akademgorodok.

All the expenditure, which runs to many hundreds of thousands of dollars, is being funded by Boeing, which transfers funds, according to contract, to a particular institute. The staffers involved are paid via the organizations where they regularly work.

'Bogged-Down' Fleet Talks Will Hamper Summit

MM1609085394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Grigoriy Nesmyanovich: "Latest Round of Talks on Problems of Black Sea Fleet Ends. Again Unsuccessfully"]

[Text] Kiev—In its usual way the Ukrainian side has accused Russian experts of being unwilling to compromise or "soften" their positions. There has also been a report that the session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, which resumed work 15 September after its recess, proposed examining a draft of the law on the status of foreign troops on Ukrainian territory. The adoption of this law could in theory either accelerate the resolution of the Fleet's age-old problems or, on the contrary, compound them.

So far one thing can be said—the bogged-down talks will only complicate the coming meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents.

Black Sea Fleet Ships Rated 'Excellent'

MM1509110194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Captain First Class Vladimir Pasyakin: "Excellent Shooting for Russian Federation Navy Commander in Chief's Prize"]

[Text] Black Sea Fleet—The large ASW ships Kerch and Azov and the escort ships Bezukoriznennyy and Ladnyy have successfully carried out firing exercises for the Russian Federation Navy commander in chief's prize. The Black Sea sailors have returned to their home base after carrying out missile firing and gunnery, and hunting and killing an "enemy" submarine.

Rear Admiral Nikolay Mikhalchenko, Black Sea Fleet deputy commander for combat training and chief of the combat training directorate, reported that the rating given to the training mission was "excellent."

Moscow Mediates in Norway-Iceland Fishing Dispute

LD1509203194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1904 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Igor Pshenichnikov]

[Text] Troms, Norway, September 15 TASS—Russia's initiative on finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict over fishing by Iceland in the Barents Sea, which is considered a zone of common economic interests by Russia and Norway, became the main news at the end of the Barents Sea Council session. A decision was made to create a tripartite working group with the participation of Russia, Norway and Iceland on a proposal put forward by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. This body has been called on to put an end to the fishing dispute in the Barents Sea, which recently grew into a subject of sharp confrontation between Norway and Iceland.

The topic of the "fishing war" in the Barents Sea had become one of the central issues during the Barents Sea Council meeting, in which foreign ministers of Norway, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and representatives of the United States, Japan and a number of other states took part. This is, in particular, testified by the fact that the topic of fishing was dealt with at a separate press conference held by Andrey Kozyrev and his Icelandic and Norwegian counterparts.

We are worried over the scale at which fishing is done by Iceland's vessels, Kozyrev said. An irreplaceable harm is being done to the valuable fish stocks. Catching the fish in such quantities will leave the Barents Sea countries without fish at all. This is not in the interests of Iceland either, he emphasised. Kozyrev expressed the hope that the working group formed on Russia's proposal will help resolve this complicated political and economic problem.

It is worth noting that Russia was initially considered in the Barents Sea Council a recipient of help from its northern neighbours. But only one and a half year after the creation of the council, the North European states had to rush to seek Russia's help. Russia's diplomatic experience proved useful for the restoration of traditional Scandinavian concord which was threatened as a result of a sharp Norwegian-Icelandic conflict.

Seventy projects of cooperation in different spheres of economy and social activities in the Euro-Arctic zone were approved during the Barents Sea Council's session.

Replying to an ITAR-TASS question, Andrey Kozyrev said that one of the main items on the agenda was the security of Russian nuclear facilities on the Kola Peninsula. He noted that this problem has been causing concern not only of the Scandinavian countries, but also to Russia, which are jointly trying to find a solution to it. It will be now Finland's turn to preside over the Barents Sea Council after Norway.

Barents Countries To Help Modernize Kola Plant

LD1509225994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The solution of ecological problems in the Kola peninsula will be one of the priorities of Russia's cooperation with other member-countries of the Council of the Barents Sea and Euro- Arctic Region, the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said at a news conference in Tromso, Norway.

He said one of the 70 programs for cooperation adopted at the Council's session in Tromso provides for the modernization of the Kola nuclear power plant. Kozyrev said that the government of Norway had already decided to invest heavily in measures to improve the safety of the Kola nuclear power plant. In return Russia would avoid charging customs duties on equipment supplied for the Kola power station. "The Kola power station problem concerns me not just as a minister, but as a law-maker elected from the Murmansk region", Kozyrev said.

He also announced that the conference in Norway discussed the possibility of expanding the Murmansk sea port and the construction of a new port in Pechenga.

He said that the conference had discussed the development of the northern sea route, which would promote trade between Nordic countries and Japan and the United States.

The Council of the Barents Sea and Euro-Arctic Region was attended by the Foreign Ministers of Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland. They adopted a program for cooperation extending until 1999 for wider economic cultural and tourist ties.

Kozyrev Proposes More Cooperation in Barents Region

LD1509165494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Pshenichnikov and Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Tromso September 15 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has offered a package of proposals aimed at encouraging economic cooperation in the Euro-Arctic region at a session of the Barents Sea Council in Tromso (Norway).

In particular, he proposed to create an investment foundation to support small and medium businesses.

We propose to discuss possible convocation of a meeting of representatives of business and financial circles which play a prominent role in the Barents Sea region, Kozyrev said. If the proposal is accepted, Russia is prepared to assume responsibility for holding such a meeting.

It is important to use scientific and production capacities of the region to the best of one's abilities, Kozyrev said. First of all, it is a matter of cooperation between defence enterprises within the framework of "conversion" programme. Russia waits for experts of the Barents Sea Council to give valid and sound recommendations on this account.

On the other hand, we face problems in taxation and legislative fields which hinder economic cooperation in the Russian part of the region, Kozyrev said.

At present, the Russian Government is considering a project for creating a free economic area in the Murmansk region. Hopefully, its implementation will encourage foreign partners' involvement in economic activities in the Kola Peninsula and Karelia, the Russian foreign minister said.

Russia would also like to draw attention to proposed construction of an international sea port in the Pechenegskaya Guba Bay. It is planned to set up an international consortium to accomplish the project.

In our opinion, cooperation in the field of issues, which have to do with indigenous peoples of the region, lags behind. Russia supports the idea of transforming the council's working group on indigenous peoples into a committee or an advisory forum, Kozyrev went on to say. We expect that the reorganizational move will speed up activities in this field.

Russia hails an increase in the activities of the Council's observer states, particularly in the field of scientific research, transportation, mastering the northern sea way and "conversing" defence plants from military to civil output.

The Barents Sea region is gradually turning into an (economically) important European region. We expect that growth of the European Union and implementation of agreements reached between the European Council and Russia will enable us to put activities of the Barents Sea Council inside a broader context of European cooperation, Kozyrev said.

Ambassadorial Appointments Reported

MM1509131594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under "In the Russian Foreign Ministry" rubric: "Appointments"]

[Text] By edict of the Russian Federation president the following are appointed Russian Federation ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary:

Agaron Nikolayevich Asatur—to the Republic of Mauritius;
Vyacheslav Ivanovich Dolgov—to the Republic of Kazakhstan;
Viktor Yuryevich Gogitidze—to the Syrian Arab Republic;
Viktor Georgiyevich Komplektov—to the Kingdom of Spain;
Vadim Igorevich Kuznetsov—to the Turkish Republic;
Andrey Yuryevich Urnov—to the Republic of Armenia.

A. Zotov, B. Krasnikov, V. Stupishin, and V. Trifonov have been relieved of their duties as Russian ambassadors abroad.

Memorandum on Communications Signed With ROK

LD1509172194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0702 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS corresondent Ivan Zakharenko]

[Summary] Seoul, 15 Sep—Russia and South Korea signed a memorandum today in Seoul on cooperation between the two countries in postal and electronic communications, which immediately came into force for an unlimited period. The memorandum was signed by Russian Federation Communications Minister Vladimir Bulgak and Yun Tong-yun, his South Korean counterpart, .

An international telephone exchange with 15,000 channels is currently being completed in Khabarovsk, which has been financed solely by telecommunications companies.

Minister Denies Talks With Switzerland

LD1509154994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1243 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—"No talks about processing and burying radioactive waste from Switzerland on the Russian territory are being conducted now," Nikolay Yegorov, deputy minister of the Russian Federation on atomic energy, told ITAR-TASS in an interview today.

Thus, the deputy minister refuted a statement by the "Greenpeace" public ecological organization released in Switzerland and Russia which says that "bilateral talks are being held about transportation of Swiss nuclear waste to Russia".

According to the "Greenpeace", the money which will be earned as a result of this transaction will allegedly be used for the construction of a new plant in the "Krasnoyarsk-26" atomic center.

Nevertheless, Nikolay Yegorov admitted that such proposals had been made by the Swiss side. However, they were not even considered as for the time being Russia has no legislative basis in this field.

The matter is that the existing draft law "on a state policy in the field of handling of radioactive waste" has not yet been adopted by the Russian parliament. This bill bans bringing of nuclear waste from other countries to the territory of Russia.

But the existing bilateral agreements with such countries as Bulgaria and Hungary where nuclear power stations of the soviet type are still operating, envisage the transportation of spent atomic fuel to the Russian Federation for processing and further delivering to the country producing this fuel.

Greenpeace Report Denied

LD1409205594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1814 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva September 14 TASS—The international environmentalist organization Greenpeace released here a document saying Russia and Switzerland were now negotiating disposal of Swiss nuclear waste in Russia's southern Siberia.

Hard currency earnings from this deal is to be used for construction of a new plutonium processing plant in Krasnoyars-26, "a secret Russian military complex producing plutonium", Greenpeace said in the press release sent to TASS's office in Geneva.

The management of the Goesgen nuclear power plant, Canton of Solothurn, confirmed the report by Greenpeace about an unofficial meeting between Russian and Swiss officials held in St. Petersburg on May 24. The participants in the meeting considered recycling of nuclear waste in Russia. According to the nuclear plant's official Konstantin Bakhman, the meeting was initiated by the Russian side.

Moscow ITAR-TASS in English also at 1814 GMT on 14 September carries the following separate Moscow-datelined report by Veronika Romanenkova:

"'No talks are being conducted on the recycling and burying of Swiss radioactive waste on Russian soil', Russia's Deputy Nuclear Power Minister Nikolay Yegorov told TASS on Wednesday.

"Nevertheless, Yegorov admitted being approached by Switzerland with such proposals. However, they were not even considered, since Russia lacks a legal basis in this field.

"The point is that the existing draft law 'on state policy in disposal of nuclear waste' has not yet been passed by parliament. This law is to ban any nuclear waste import to Russia. But the existing bilateral agreements with such countries as Bulgaria and Hungary, which have Soviet-pattern nuclear power plants, provide for delivery of spent fuel to Russia for recycling.

Russia To Donate Armored Cars to Palestinians

LD1609094394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0930 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Kozlov and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russia intends to give the newly-created Palestinian police a gift - 45 armoured personnel carriers. The Palestinian police force was formed to accommodate Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

In addition, a group of Palestinian policemen will be sent to Russia for training in various specialised departments, ITAR-TASS was told today by Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

Ivanov held talks in Moscow with a Palestinian delegation headed by Zuhdi Terzi, aide for international affairs to the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

According to Ivanov, the talks were concerned with what Russia can do to afford practical help in establishing Palestinian self- rule. The technical side of the matter will be discussed at a meeting between the PLO delegation and top officials in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Russia, Brazil Sign Nuclear Energy Agreement

LD1609082194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Kurguzov]

[Text] Brasilia September 16 TASS—Russia and Brazil will cooperate in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. An intergovernmental agreeement to this effect was signed here on Thursday by Russian Minister for Nuclear Energy Viktor Mikhaylov, who is currently here on an official visit, and Brazilian Foreign Minister Selso Amorim.

This document not only opens up prospects for further development of contacts between the two countries in the use of nuclear energy but it also promotes stronger relations of friendship and cooperation between them, the Brazilian minister said at the signing ceremony. The agreement will usher it cooperation in other areas such as, for example, space reserach and the obtaining of high technologies which russia possesses on a large scale, he pointed out.

Amorim also emphasised that the agreement was reached due to immense changes that have taken place in the world and to the fact that Russia and Brazil support the world community's efforts in this respect.

The Russian minister, for his part, noted that this is the first agreement of its kind which russia concluded with a South American country. He voiced confidence that cooperation between the two countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will contribute to strengthening world peace and security.

The agreement also provides for regular exchanges of experience and scientists, joint conduct of research in thermonuclear power, applied physics, and superconductivity, Mikhaylov told ITAR-TASS.

"The research includes the processing of urainum ores, which are necessary for the nuclear power industry, the construction of small reactors, and commercial production of components and materials for comlete nuclear cycle, and isotopes that are essential for medicine and industry," the Russian minister said.

Transportation Minister, Iranian Envoy Talk

LD1509214394 Tehran IRNA in English 2028 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 15, IRNA—The Russian minister of transportation, Vitaliy Yefimov, told the Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Ne'matollah Izadi here today that Iran and Russia would do well to cooperate with each other for establishing security in what he called southern Russia.

In their meeting here today the two officials also reviewed outlooks for cooperation between Iran and Russia in the area of transportation.

The Russian minister extended an invitation to the Iranian Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan to visit Moscow within the framework of transportation cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian ambassador said the resumption of regular flights between Tehran and Moscow by the airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran [word indistinct] is a stride for further developing the cooperation of the two countries in the area of transportation.

He added the improvement of facilities at Astrakhan port of Russia on the northern end of the oblong Caspian Sea and at Iran's Bandar Turkman port on the southeastern shores of the Caspian, will greatly enhance marine transport between the two countries.

The Caspian, the world's largest inland sea which is hemmed in by Iran, Azerbaijan Republic, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan offers an excellent means for transport of cargo between the littoral states.

Iraq Trade Pact Could Affect Embargo Stance

MM1509105594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Elmar Guseynov: "Russian-Iraqi Trade Agreement: Prestige in Exchange for Billions"]

[Text] "Things are moving toward the lifting of sanctions. Grounds for this may emerge as early as next year. And we must be prepared to return to the Iraqi market." That was how one high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry staffer commented on the signing in Moscow of a protocol on trade and economic cooperation between Russia and Iraq.

The protocol boils down to the Iraqi side guaranteeing Russia the immediate, top-priority repayment of its accumulated debts once the sanctions are lifted. Iraq owes our country around $7 billion.

What is more, the Iraqis expressed willingness to conclude construction contracts with Russian firms once the sanctions are lifted as well as contracts for the delivery of equipment and commodities worth $8-10 billion. It is a question of the construction of industrial facilities—petrochemical, power generation, and metallurgical installations. Russian Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations officials say that there is no question of resuming shipments of military hardware.

There is every indication that the major Russian oil corporation Lukoil may win huge orders for the development of the mothballed oil fields at which Soviet specialists once worked.

I would remind you that virtually this entire package of proposals was made to the Russian leadership by Iraqi Vice Premier Tariq 'Aziz during his secret visit to St. Petersburg this July. One can only be surprised at the promptness with which these proposals have been formalized in an official document.

To be frank, when it became known that talks had begun at the end of August between the Iraqi and Russian foreign trade ministers, I found it hard to believe that they would result in the signing of any documents. After all, the very fact that such contacts are taking place at the highest level with the Iraqi leadership meant a blatant challenge to UN and world forces that want an uncompromising struggle against Saddam Husayn's regime. The United States, Britain, the Gulf countries, and many Western states are among the staunch adversaries of the Iraqi regime today.

The signing of the protocol does not of course mean that Russia is violating the UN economic embargo against Iraq. It does not mean that pro forma. In actual fact the appearance of this document represents the Iraqi diplomatic service's greatest success since the Gulf war. It is the result of years of effort by the pro-Iraq lobby in the top echelons of Russian politics, which has not tired of demonstrating the "benefit" to Russia of cooperating with Iraq.

There are, after all, plenty of Russian officials who have not forgotten the fat years of friendship with Iraq. Saddam Husayn has plenty of friends among our diplomats, economic managers, military men, and intelligence personnel of the old school.

There is every indication that the Russian Foreign Ministry is in no doubt that our country will benefit from the establishment of trade and economic links with the Baghdad dictator and the lifting of the embargo on Iraq. S. Kalugin, who is in charge of the Foreign Ministry Near East Department's Iraq and Jordan Section, said that Russia's position consists in encouraging Iraq to fulfill the UN Security Council's disarmament requirements, thus setting in train the mechanism for the lifting of the sanctions.

S. Kalugin recalled that at one time Iraq was Russia's most reliable foreign trading partner, buying arms alone worth $1.5-2 billion a year. And it would moreover pay in cash or with oil shipments. The Foreign Ministry section chief complained at the same time of the Americans' biased policy toward Iraq—they are campaigning in effect not so much for the fulfillment of the Security Council sanctions as for Saddam Husayn to be removed from power.

The Russian diplomat also pointed to the fact that, while fueling hostility toward Iraq, the United States has inundated the Gulf countries with its weapons. At the same time S. Kalugin was not troubled by a certain amount of ambiguity in the Russian diplomatic service's actions. After all, at one time it was none other than the USSR that pumped Iraq full of arms. It was these weapons that the Iraqis used to invade Kuwait. After which the United States and other Western countries, in conjunction with the Gulf states' troops, had to spend huge sums of money, move their troops to the Near East, and expel the unlucky conquerors with Russia's approval.

Understandably the West is reluctant to take any more risks and spend more money on putting right the Baghdad dictator's "quirks," and no one there believes in Saddam's peaceableness. The Russian Foreign Ministry and evidently the Russian Government, whose soldiers did not take part in the war, are not averse to playing the old game of "friendship" new-style with Baghdad.

At the same time it was incredibly important for Baghdad to sign the above document now. After all, in mid-September the United Nations will hold the next round of its discussion of the sanctions problem. And now the Iraqis can count on active support from Russia in these debates since the latter will be more than interested in having its debts repaid somewhat quicker and winning the promised contracts.

For many months Iraqi diplomats have not stinted in their efforts to seek the slightest contradictions in the world powers' position on the embargo problem. Iraqi Vice Premier Tariq 'Aziz was relieved of all other duties apart from seeking supporters and allies for Baghdad. The Iraqis have built up position advantages bit by bit in this game, at the beginning of which they suffered a hopeless defeat following their troops' expulsion from Kuwait.

The result is that today Iraq can count on a well-disposed attitude from France and China, who are in favor of encouraging the Baghdad authorities' efforts to fulfill the UN Security Council sanctions. This August the king of Jordan and the president of Turkey advocated that the sanctions be lifted most speedily. And now the Iraqis' fairy-tale success in Russia.

However no one is saying that Iraq has become less dangerous to the world around. This country's army is continuing its operations against the marsh Arabs, destroying a whole people who have lived in Iraq for thousands of years. Hard-currency traders violating the laws on currency regulation are shot on the streets of Baghdad without trial. The country has introduced the practice of cutting off farmers' hands and feet should they fail to sell grain to the state. Iraq is still refusing to recognize the present Kuwaiti borders. It is the survival of Iraq's aggressive terrorist regime that is the reason for the uncompromising attitude of those UN members who are pressing for the extension of the embargo against the state led by Saddam Husayn.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Health, Staff Rumors Viewed

MM1609102594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Afanasiy Brynochka: "President's Fall Ailments?"]

[Text] The past week marked the second wave of rumors about the Russian president's health. (The first wave swept several Russian newspapers immediately after B. Yeltsin's recent visit to Germany and contained many elements not to his advantage—from venomous comments on the Russian Federation president's extravagant conducting of the military orchestra and hints about his "lack of sobriety" to quotations from Western publications which express themselves far more toughly).

The second wave brought to the Russian press a whole consignment of rumors about the Russian Federation president's stay on hospitable German land—about what television did not show. The day before yesterday one newspaper suddenly wrote that the Man Himself had broken a bottle over the heads of all his aides while the next day another newspaper continued the theme, reporting that V. Ilyushin, Yeltsin's first assistant, unable to stand the offense and the humiliation, had even handed in his resignation.

Meanwhile the Kremlin offices are filling with new scandalous details. Among the victims rumor cites also General Korzhakov, chief of the Russian Federation Main Administration for Protection, protocol chief Shevchenko, and even one woman—the speech writer Pikhoya. Another rumor is also gaining increasing popularity—that allegedly on instructions from the president, press secretary Kostikov, who had incurred the chief's displeasure, was thrown fully dressed from a diesel ship into the river. If we are to believe the newspaper KOMMERSANT Kostikov "took the incident with humor." (It is said that it was no accident that his speech on the need to retain dignity at the recent TASS jubilee was received with sympathy).

We know that when it is fall you can expect another aggravation of the political situation in Russia and consequently gossip about Boris Yeltsin. But there is also experience of struggling against these general base insinuations. Last year, for instance, Ilyushin and Sukhanov, another assistant of the president, persuasively refuted the opposition's charges that B. Yeltsin drinks to excess and said that the real reason why he was indisposed was that he had a cold. As a result they dispelled the rumors promptly and helped the press to find their bearings and the population understood everything correctly. Why then is there silence now? After all, the deeds not ascribed to the president are not as innocuous as last year. Leading Russian politicians agitating for a change of date for the presidential elections, not to mention Yegor Gaydar, who is urging all true democrats to rally around Boris Yeltsin, are in a delicate position. And so, highly concerned at what is happening and guided exclusively by the desire for the authorities to retain their attractive image, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is prepared to make its pages available for the refutation of rumors by all those concerned.

Yeltsin Concerned About Human Rights in Ossetia

LD1509201994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin instructed Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights under the Russian president, State Duma deputy Sergey Kovalev, to fly to the zone of the Georgian- Abkhaz conflict on Friday.

Kovalev said in an interview with Interfax that the Russian president had told him to go to North Ossetia and Ingushetia and to make an impartial report on the human rights situation in the region.

During the visit which is expected to last for five days Kovalev intends to meet with North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov and Ingush President Ruslan Aushev. Kovalev also intends to meet with Head of the Interim Administration in the zone of the state of emergency on North Ossetian and Ingush territory Vladimir Lozov, the heads of the law enforcement of the two republics and refugees.

Human Rights Situation at Odds With Constitution

LD1509214294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The situation regarding human rights in the Russian army and prisons, the situation with refugees, forced migrants, the freedom of movement and to choose where one wishes to live inside one's country, is not getting better, but worse. The gap between the words of the Russian Constitution and reality continues to grow, the Human Rights Commission under the Russian president's office stated.

The commission summarized its findings in amendments to Sergey Kovalev's report and recommendations concerning a draft federal program on human rights. The recommendations were adopted at the commission's session in Moscow on Thursday and are to be reported to the public chamber on September 24.

Among other things, the recommendations say that the existing judicial system fails to effectively protect the individual from departmental and bureaucratic arbitrariness and mass and systematic violations of human rights and freedoms.

"Russia is at the beginning of the road of banishing totalitarianism," the recommendations say.

The Russian Federation must urge the government to effect a federal program for human rights and name officials responsible for it, set deadlines and ensure budgetary financing, the authors of the recommendations stated.

Federation Council Aide Target of Moscow Bomb

MM1609100994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Anokhin: "Abdulatipov Almost Injured by 'Antennae'"]

[Text] A citizen was walking down Novocheremushkinskaya 11 September and unexpectedly saw a brick with what looked like strange "antennae" protruding from it 1 meter from the entrance to a "government" apartment block. "Is it a UFO?" he wondered, and was on the point of touching it. But some premonition stopped him and made him call the militia. They came along, saw the "antennae," and called the military. They took the "brick" away, with unusual precaution.

And, as it turned out, this was not in vain. The "brick with antennae" was an explosive device packed with 350 grams of TNT. Specialists claim that a third of it would have been enough to totally destroy a two-story building. They began an investigation—Federation Council Deputy Chairman Ramazan Abdulatipov was the most influential person living in the "targeted" building. In view of the wave of mafia clashes with businessmen, the militiamen established that no one of that category lived in the building.

Experts from both the Federation Council and militia organs concluded that this device was most likely intended for Ramazan Abdulatipov, and they asked him to increase his guard. In their opinion, this is due to the worsening political struggle in Dagestan; not only does Mr. R. Abdulatipov come from there but he is also considered Dagestan's top man in Moscow.

That state of affairs may not please and may even be an obstacle to certain younger leaders of the mountain peoples. However, Ruslan Valeyev, an aide to Ramazan Abdulatipov, believes that the planned attack may be linked to his stance on the conflicts in Chechnya and North Ossetia.

Ramazan Abdulatipov himself has refused increased protection and said during a conversation with your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent:

"Whatever may happen, the incident has not caused my position to waver. Despite the ostentatious scare tactics I still support the peaceful settlement of any contentious issues and am in favor of observing the interests of the peoples of the North Caucasus region and not those of particular leaders."

Impending Shakeup at FCS Rumored

MM1509201594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

["Own Information" report under the "Theory" rubric: "Federal Counterintelligence Service for Just the Time Being?—It Seems that the Russian Security Service Is Set To Undergo Another Shakeup"]

[Text] Rumors, which, according to some data, have a reliable basis, are circulating persistently: namely, that an Edict on the Reorganization—and, to all intents and purposes, on the Disbandonment—of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] has been handed to the Russian Federation president for his signature. The document, it is suggested, was prepared by a group of experts headed by Yuriy Baturin.

Insofar as it has proved impossible to clarify anything through the official channels, it has been necessary to ask a retired Chekist for his assistance. In the past, he occupied a top post in the Union KGB and often appeared in TRUD with commentaries on events relating to the work of the once formidable department. And so, here is the viewpoint of General (Retired) Ivan Petrov (the name and surname, of course, have been changed):

"For me, there is nothing sensational here, as the KGB was doomed back in August 1991. The desire to bury the committee once and for all did and still does exist for many. It began with name changes, eternal leadership shuffles, cutbacks, and it is ending in the liquidation of the entire service.

"According to my information, the investigative directorate is being transferred to the Ministry of Justice, and all the remaining subdivisions are being scattered around various departments—to the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, and the president's structures. In short, right now, as TRUD once wrote, it really is a case of 'Farewell, CPSU Cheka!'

"The event does not rouse feelings of 'profound satisfaction' in me. The feeling of personal insult and the honor of the uniform are irrelevant here. And the problem is not even that many highly professional people are being deprived of work (as they, without waiting for the official decisions, are now scattering every which way.) The problem above all is that Russia for a long time has been squandering one of the key state structures. The highly important work in safeguarding the country's security, yours and my security, will be paralyzed. Or is nobody interested in this anymore? It would seem so.

"I see lobbying for this decision on the part of the West as one of the reasons for this hasty and ill-thought-out step, insofar as a strong security service and effective counterintelligence, very much get in the way of their throwing their weight around with impunity on our territory, and gaining access to the, alas, few remaining secrets. An active and well organized propaganda campaign is under way. Examples? Here are a few of the most recent.

"Look at the noise and uproar over the alleged arrival in Europe from Russia of plutonium, and other radioactive materials. There is no evidence, facts, documentation, but the accusation was there and ready. To add insult to injury, they are demanding this very evidence from us ourselves, and they are trying to gain access to nuclear facilities. The FCS leader is hastening to Bonn. To make his excuses? What for?

"The aim is only too clear: To bring Russia's nuclear potential under their control.

"But such an action is, as I—an expert— see things, quite transparent. For instance, it did not occur to anybody to stop and think why it is that this plutonium is being conveyed from Russia exclusively to the FRG and necessarily on Aeroflot flights? And why is it that the couriers are so slow-witted—devoid of even basic caution or discretion? As if anybody would transport a container holding a potential bomb in a rucksack full of potatoes....

"And here is some more information to ponder—the affair concerning CIA Staffer Ames was blown up to such an extent that it was simply unbelievable. There is a terrible outcry from across the ocean—how dare they enlist our valiant CIA agents! An imposing delegation flies into Moscow all but demanding that the foreign intelligence leadership be carpeted. Thank God, Primakov did not 'stand to attention' and 'salute.'

"Here is a very poignant detail about which, for some reason, people have remained timidly silent. We did not recruit Ames! As a CIA resident in one of the countries, he himself entered into contact with the Chekists and offered his cooperation. And in response to the natural question of why he did it, Ames answered roughly as follows:

'I cannot any longer serve a department which is rotten through and through. The CIA is crammed with unscrupulous people, corruption and nepotism flourish, as does the aspiration to get rich at another's expense, the neglect of official duties. Not to mention all the dirty sexual scandals...'

"Which means, indeed, that the resident was not laboring for the communist idea.

"...Now the most important thing: Who, then, tomorrow, will catch spies working in Russia virtually in the open, track down completely unbridled terrorists, or rummage through whole "suitcases" of compromising materials pertaining to bribe-taking functionaries?

"You know, the protection of life and the property of the powers that be is a necessary task, but it is far from the only one. At the moment, things are the other way around. Is another shakeup in the interests of Russia?" [Petrov ends]

We do not consider the general's viewpoint indisputable. Therefore, a comprehensible official version on the subject of the decision under preparation would be well placed and timely.

Vice Premier Shokhin Interviewed

MM1509103794 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Vice Premier and Minister of Economics Aleksandr Shokhin by TRUD Political Observer Vitaliy Golovachev: "Aleksandr Shokhin: 'We Are Walking a Tightrope, and Any Step to the Side Is Dangerous'"]

[Text] Aleksandr Shokhin, vice premier and minister of economics, is among the main protagonists today determining the strategy and tactics for implementing reform in Russia. He has been in the government since August 1991—he is one of the longest-serving ministers of the post-totalitarian period, but in terms of age he is one of the youngest (42 years old). He answers journalists' questions boldly and candidly, making no attempt to duck "sore points" or to embellish reality. Our conversation began with controversial issues.

[Golovachev] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, the premier stated a little while ago that in physical terms the volume of production in July was 1 percent up on the June level. But if you don't correct for seasonal factors, in reality the volume of industrial production in July showed not an increase but a very sharp decrease. I will give the "secret" figure, which does not feature in any collection of statistics and is not disclosed even to ministers: The volume of industrial production in July (excluding seasonal factors) was in fact only 89.4 percent of the June level. One senior official spent a long time "tormenting" me to discover where I had obtained this secret figure. The question arises: Does the government know the true state of affairs in the economy? Before our conversation did you personally know this figure of 89.4 percent? Or do you, like the premier, believe that growth in industrial production began in July?

[Shokhin] I want to say that specialists have long had excellent knowledge of all statistical devices—"setting aside" seasonal factors, using "deflators," and so forth. Any skilled economist knows how you can produce various calculations for the dynamics of production and the inflation rate.... Indeed, if you take the July volume of production in physical terms without correcting for seasonal factors, this volume is smaller than in June. The figure of 89.4 percent is by no means "secret" but official.

But the point lies elsewhere. July has always "been a mess" because of leave; the figure for July last year is similarly "skewed." If you take seasonal factors into account, the figure for July in comparison with June was 101.3 percent.

However, it is much more important to see the trends and to analyze the so-called "statistical arrays." In other words, you have to compare the dynamics of processes. Okay, analysis shows that the trend toward stabilization of production continued in August 1994. Calculate them any way you like—taking seasonal fluctuations into account or not—the August indicators exceed the July figures. And this is certainly a positive shift. Of course, you cannot draw conclusions on the basis of just one or two months. On several previous occasions since the start of the reform the volume of industrial production has stabilized or even increased in some months, but has subsequently again begun to fall. The immediate future will indicate how stable the current shifts are.

[Golovachev] Fine, the situation regarding industry is clear. But how would you describe the current situation in the economy as a whole?

[Shokhin] Overall it remains very difficult. There is a big fall in production and GDP, the nonpayments crisis, unemployment.... However, there is also an increase in positive processes that are the result of the policy that is being implemented. I am referring not only to inflation, which was at its lowest level for three years in August. It is important to hold steady now. We are still walking a tightrope, as it were—any step to the right or step to the left is equally dangerous. But all the same, the most important point is that the positive trends are gathering strength....

[Golovachev] What exactly are these trends, if you don't mind saying?

[Shokhin] I am now going to use a phrase that was often said both in late 1992 and in 1993: "The general crisis is becoming structural in nature." But at that time this was quite a long way from being the case. Only now, in the fall of 1994, can it be said that the crisis is indeed beginning to become structural.

What does this mean? In every sector, even those that are in the most difficult position—the textile sector and the defense complex, for instance—there are now stable groups of leading enterprises that have not simply adapted to the new, market conditions but are rapidly capturing the market, winning out over competitors, and vigorously developing.

[Golovachev] If it's a matter of just a few enterprises...

[Shokhin] No, the leading groups include 10, 15, or 20 percent of enterprises (depending on sector). And these "growth points" inspire optimism.

Many foreign experts also note the positive changes. Unless something extraordinary happens, the positive shifts that analysts are noticing today will be visible to the naked eye, so to speak, in three or four months.

[Golovachev] So the most difficult times are now behind us?

[Shokhin] On the contrary, I think that the most difficult times still lie ahead. It is not only a matter of the decline in production and GDP, the upcoming bankruptcies, and the threat of increased unemployment. All these are certainly very difficult problems. But maybe the most complex thing today is to steer a course for the ship and to stand at the helm. For the major (and very obvious) macroeconomic decisions (such as the price liberalization in January 1992) are in the past, and now you have to use economic instruments for very fine tuning, maneuvering in the sphere of tax policy, privatization, the securities market, and so forth. Here there are no precise formulas or readymade solutions and prescriptions, as in mathematics. There is much that is unknown here....

[Golovachev] What about world experience?

[Shokhin] Each country has its own peculiarities and traditions. Never before has a country as huge as Russia accomplished the historical turn from the planned Soviet system to the market system. Disputes often arise on very specific issues between specialists even in the same department, between Russian and foreign economists, and between government members. We make mistakes sometimes and we learn from them, but of course we must seek to ensure that there are as few mistakes as possible.

[Golovachev] I think that some of the government's mistakes would be unforgivable even for a student at the economics faculty. One vivid example is government decree No 409 on the taxation of transactions involving state securities. This was immediately followed by the panicky dropping of the 13th issue of state short-term bonds and the fall in the rate of other issues. The mistaken, economically incompetent decision was hastily revoked. But the question is: How do such incompetent decisions arise? Who proposes them? Who approves them?

[Shokhin] Without going into details connected with decree 409, I will be frank—mistakes are sometimes made in preparing important decisions. Unfortunately, attempts are sometimes made to "push through" an economic decision "directly," behind the back of structures and persons whose opinions have to be taken into account. The reason why they go behind their backs is that that opinion is sometimes negative. Often after this the government itself has to rectify the situation.

[Golovachev] What, do people often go "behind your back" in preparing government economic documents?

[Shokhin] Sometimes. And sometimes downright miracles occur. Some documents suddenly...vanish. For instance, a month ago there appeared a general agreement between several sectors—the Ministry of Railways, the miners, the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering, the metallurgists. We examined the question at a government sitting. After the discussion we spent a long time finalizing the document, at long last we finished work, and I signed off on it. The document left my hands and...vanished. Neither the premier nor anyone else has seen it. We spent two weeks looking for it. Yesterday at long last we found it. It was lying around somewhere in the apparatus....

Clearly, in this specific instance bureaucracy is to blame. But there are also other reasons for such phenomena—lobbying, resistance to the adoption of particular decisions, "stonewalling" on the question. We have to use various government commissions to combat this. The work of O. Soskovets' commission on nonpayments sets a good example of timely and balanced decisionmaking.

[Golovachev] When is the problem of overdue nonpayments [as published] going to be solved? That is, when will it be possible to reduce the volume of them to the level customary in developed countries?

[Shokhin] Over the course of 1995, I think. Why? Because the machinery for collecting debts will begin to operate, bankruptcies will begin, and so forth. We will succeed if we introduce effective market mechanisms which operate as inexorably as...well, the criminal code, if you like.

[Golovachev] Do you think that market mechanisms will begin to operate in 1995?

[Shokhin] At any rate the requisite conditions are now being established for this, including the preparation of draft laws.

[Golovachev] Could you mention some of them?

[Shokhin] Certainly: We have prepared draft laws on compliance, on bailiffs, and on stamp duty (we are proposing to lower it appreciably on large suits, and to set it at no more than 5 percent of the amount of the action in small suits). A package of draft tax laws is ready.

[Golovachev] What if the State Duma spends a very long time examining these draft laws?

[Shokhin] Some of the problems may be solved by presidential edicts.

[Golovachev] The problem of unemployment is causing particular concern to many Russians. Nine million people are already seeking work or are employed for less than a full workday (workweek). And if, on top of that, plants begin to close.... How many unemployed may there be—15 or 20 million? Is the government considering how to solve this problem?

[Shokhin] It is not only considering, it is doing something. Extremely interesting projects are being studied. We cannot permit rampant unemployment. So we must create new jobs. How? One way is to organize public works. For instance, an impressive project for constructing toll highways and the entire infrastructure alongside them—hotels, cafes, gas stations, and also small towns and settlements. People would move there from the north and from other places.... Foreign businessmen, in Germany, for instance, are prepared to invest considerable funds, which would produce a rapid return. Superhighways, for instance, linking Moscow and St. Petersburg or Moscow, Minsk, Warsaw, Berlin, and Paris, promise investors considerable profits.

Everybody would gain: Our people would have work, Russia would get first-class highways and the surrounding infrastructure, businessmen would get a good income.... And matters can be organized in such a way that not a kopek would be spent out of the treasury. Paradoxical though it may seem, nowadays we need "projects of the century."

[Golovachev] It is well known that the Interim Commission of the Federal Administration for Matters of Enterprise Insolvency has adopted a decision on 29 debtor plants and organizations. In three cases it has been decided to wind up the ailing enterprises and in six to carry out sale by tender. What kind of plants are these?

[Shokhin] A strictly individual approach is applied to each enterprise. I will cite a few examples. The Moscow Electric Lamp Plant, the Kuskovo Grease Plant, and the Moscow "Soyuztsvetmetremont" Construction and Installation Plant have been deemed to have regained solvency. As for the Moscow experimental mechanical plant (VNIITP), it has been decided to make changes to the privatization plan, making repayment of 100 percent of the plant's overdue debts to creditors a mandatory condition of the commercial competition. I will emphasize that I am talking about state enterprises.

Now a few words about those that are going to be sold off. There is the Moscow Experimental Plant, for instance (100 percent state owned). It has been decided to relieve the director of his post and appoint a manager. Property (assets) will be sold off at the Kola branch of the "Mekhanobr" Institute. Finally, the "Montazhzapchast" technical office in Moscow will be wound up.

[Golovachev] The editorial office is receiving a lot of letters about upcoming changes to the tax system. What proposals are being prepared regarding income tax?

[Shokhin] There is no final version yet. I can tell you about one option. It is proposed to introduce two scales for the taxation of physical persons. Taxes on one scale would go to the federal budget, and on the other they would go to the budgets of the Federation components. The bottom tax rate for low-income citizens would remain the same—12 percent. And since the tax threshold would be doubled, low-income people would gain to some extent.... But it is proposed to introduce a rate of 35 percent for people with very high incomes as against 30 percent at present.

[Golovachev] Where is the dividing line between the poor, the rich, and the super-rich?

[Shokhin] The proposed scale is this: a tax rate of 12 percent on annual incomes of up to 1.5 million rubles [R]. If your annual income is between R1.5 million and

R15 million, the total tax will be R180,000 plus 20 percent of the sum exceeding R1.5 million.

Then the rate increases accordingly (in stages) to 30 percent (on incomes of up to R50 million). The super-rich are people with an annual income of over R50 million. Their tax is as follows: R11.545 million plus 35 percent of the sum exceeding R50 million. But, I repeat, at present this is just one proposal.

[Golovachev] What other changes are you proposing to make to the tax system?

[Shokhin] To speak briefly about the other innovations, there is the abolition of the 3 percent special tax on maintaining extremely important sectors and also on payments into sectoral special funds, the gradual abolition of the tax on above-normative consumption funds, the abolition of numerous taxes of little significance, and so forth. The year 1995 is to be the first year of tax reforms.

[Golovachev] What is the state's role in a market economy? In your view, is there a need for some administrative regulation, in the prices sphere, for instance, or will the "invisible hand of the market" regulate everything?

[Shokhin] My opinion is as follows. We need to increase the effectiveness of state regulation. Above all, it is a question of regulating prices and tariffs in sectors that have a natural monopoly (rail and power tariffs, gas prices). This is in the interests of the entire national economic complex and the country's population. And it in no way runs counter to the principles of the market economy.

[Golovachev] What will inflation be like by the end of the year, in your view?

[Shokhin] We will keep within the planned figures—7-9 percent.

[Golovachev] How does the Ministry of Economics assess the poverty problem? Is the number of people below the poverty line growing or declining?

[Shokhin] It is not growing, at any rate, and is even declining slightly.

[Golovachev] But millions of people today are not receiving their wages. How can they get by? The president's edict on liability for nonpayment of wages is having no effect. Isn't it time to introduce a clear-cut mechanism and to provide for sanctions for delays in wages, up to and including criminal liability?

[Shokhin] On the whole I agree with your formulation of the question. If it transpires that an enterprise has got money (in different accounts, including hard currency accounts) or it has liquid assets (shares) but workers are not receiving their wages, the director, by decision of the courts, should answer according to the full rigor of the law, and maybe even go to jail. I think that the adoption of such a law would be very useful. And what is more, any failure to pay wages over several months should mean raising the question of the enterprise's bankruptcy.

[Golovachev] Today the securities market is in total disarray. Is this the way it ought to be, or is this a miscalculation by the government?

[Shokhin] I would not talk in terms of total disarray, but there are certainly plenty of miscalculations.

[Golovachev] What about the arrest of Sergey Mavrodi? Was there really a need to isolate the leader of the "MMM" joint-stock company?

[Shokhin] I think this was a mistake. "MMM" ought to have been allowed to go bust without the authorities' help.

[Golovachev] Aren't there altogether too many stupid actions? Remember the arrest of Lev Vaynberg as well....

[Shokhin] This looks less like stupidity than an antigovernment provocation.

[Golovachev] In conclusion I'd like to ask a few personal questions that are also connected with politics. Can you envision the possibility that parliament, when it meets after the summer recess, may force the government to resign? It will raise the question of the socioeconomic question in the country and...

[Shokhin] I admit this is one possible scenario. Today there are many influential forces prepared to bring down the government by accusing it of "wrecking the economy." But the reality is precisely the reverse: There are indications, albeit very slight, of economic recovery and there are positive signs. Note that previously there was nobody who wanted to take the helm, but today they are waiting in line to take a "turn at the wheel." This is understandable: They want to come along and win the laurels of the reformers who stabilized the situation.

[Golovachev] But President Boris Yeltsin, who criticized the government very harshly in July for its sluggishness, may himself renew the government team without waiting for a vote of no-confidence from parliament....

[Shokhin] On the one hand that would put the opposition in a difficult position—who should it fight against? But since political leaders on both "left" and "right" would put themselves forward as candidates for senior government posts, this is a suitable scenario for them. However, so far as the president is concerned, the scenario of surrendering individuals would scarcely strengthen his position. So this cannot be regarded as a viable scenario.

[Golovachev] In your view, will the fall be "hot" or not very "hot"?

[Shokhin] There will be political struggle. There may be a deterioration of the social situation in particular regions, but, in my view, none of this will take extreme forms.

[Golovachev] Do you agree with the proposal to postpone the presidential and parliamentary elections?

[Shokhin] No, we should comply with the constitutional norms, otherwise a serious blow will be struck against the still-fragile democratic processes.

[Golovachev] Now for personal matters, if you don't mind. Some people describe you as a "traitor" to Gaydar's team. What is your view of this?

[Shokhin] If the fact that I remained in the government during Gaydar's two resignations is to be described as treachery, then Chubays, Saltykov, and probably all the members of the 1991 government team except for Petr Aven (he was the only one to quit the government in December 1992) should be categorized as "traitors."

Speaking not about form but about substance, after December 1992 I did indeed have a parting of the ways with Yegor Timurovich. I parted with him precisely because of his nomination as premier and subsequent departure from the government. Who betrayed whom here is a separate topic.

[Golovachev] What do you mean?

[Shokhin] Gaydar did not keep our gentleman's agreement not to be "promoted" premier because it was clear that this would not get through the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. But he badly wanted to have a go. And this failed experiment affected the entire social situation in the country. Remember: Then the president announced the referendum, the well known "hot" days at the Eighth and Ninth Congresses began, in short, the country was in turmoil for half a year....

But even after this I tried to cooperate with Gaydar. I am talking about October of last year. But we could not reach agreement. We had different views of the outlook for the economic and political situation.

[Golovachev] When did you last have a face-to-face meeting with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin?

[Shokhin] In the summer. We met frequently in July in connection with the Naples summit and the signing of the agreement with the EU on the Greek island of Corfu.

[Golovachev] What are your personal relations with the president like?

[Shokhin] We have normal businesslike relations. But...how can I put it, I am not among the "boyars of the inner circle."

[Golovachev] Do you play tennis?

[Shokhin] I have been playing for a year now, but I have never played with the president.

Winding up our conversation, I want to say that it will be a great pity if the political struggle slows the progress of reform. Of course, it will be difficult or maybe impossible now to change the general direction. But the danger of a slowdown may be real. And any chess player knows what it means when you lose pace....

Government To Monitor Individual Bank Accounts

MK1509115094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Authorities Take Control of All Bank Accounts"]

[Text] The Russian Federation State Tax Inspectorate jointly with the Finance Ministry and the Russian Central Bank have introduced sensational changes into procedures for individuals who open bank accounts and conduct operations with large sums of money.

As of now the banks have been issued strict orders to open all (!) individual operating accounts only on presentation of a document confirming registration with a tax body, and also to notify these bodies within five days about the opening of currency, loan, deposit, and other accounts. In the event that tax bodies establish instances of concealment of accounts, chiefs of banks or other credit institutions will face a fine in the amount of 100 times the minimum wage. In the event of repeat violation, the financial organizations in question may be abolished and their revenues turned over to the state.

Taxpayers, for their part, are obligated to submit to tax bodies on a quarterly basis information about all accounts they have opened not only in Russia but also abroad.

Procedures for execution of deals worth more than $10,000 or the ruble equivalent by individuals have also been tightened. As of now banks or other credit institutions are obligated to report this to tax bodies which may demand an income declaration from the depositor.

Financial liability for violations is envisioned both for corporate entities and individuals. Thus, failure to register cash receipts will incur a fine in the amount of triple the unregistered sum. Accumulation of cash in the till in excess of the norm will merit a fine of triple the cash sum involved. Organization chiefs guilty of such violations will be fined up to 50 times the minimum wage.

Kaliningrad Opposition Seeks Yeltsin Ouster

LD1609090094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0821 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad September 16 TASS—Leaders of various Russian opposition movements and parties gathered in the Russian Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad on Friday to discuss joint actions in order to topple the current Russian leadership by May.

They are holding a two-day "First Congress of Patriotic Forces" under the motto "Russian boundary: from

Kaliningrad to the Kuriles" the main aim of which is to bring closer their positions, draft a unified programme of actions in order "to raise the whole of Russia to struggle".

On Thursday opposition leaders Aleksandr Rutskoy, Gennadiy Zyuganov, Sergey Baburin, Viktor Aksyuchitz, Mikhail Astafyev, Viktor Alksnis and others held a meeting with Kaliningrad residents where they called for support in order to oust the current leadership by May.

The audience consisting mostly of elderly people burst into applause when Zyuganov said that there is no multi-party system in Russia and there are only two opposing forces: the opposition which he called "the party of national revival" and the authority which he branded as "the party of national treachery".

Zyuganov called on those present to support the opposition, help it come to power and restore the Soviet Union. "The Russian bear is already rising across the whole of the country", he said.

Other opposition leaders were also eloquent and scared the audience with an imminent transfer of their enclave to Germany and their deportation to Russia. All of them denounced the "anti- popular" regime of Boris Yeltsin.

However, a certain confusion was caused by a question how did the opposition leaders, who were the main defenders of the former parliament, manage to survive when tanks pounded their headquarters last October.

Baburin and Oleg Rumyantsev explained that Yeltsin had allegedly issued an order to spare the deputies of the former Supreme Soviet. For unclear reasons they branded the order as "criminal".

On Saturday the opposition plans to hold a rally in the victory square of Kaliningrad.

New Social Democratic Party Likely To Be Founded

LD1509203494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1905 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—A group of key politicians announced on Thursday their decision to set up a new Social Democratic Party, news programmes of Commonwealth and NTV independent television said.

This decision "was prompted by the need to build a democratic society and to take part in the forthcoming elections", according to the politicians.

The Ostankino broadcasting company's chief, Aleksandr Yakovlev, was elected chairman of the party's organizing committee, which is to work out its programme documents. Air force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov was elected deputy chairman.

The organizing committee will also include Gavriil Popov, Stanislav Shatalin, Fedor Burlatskiy, Nikolay Shmelyov.

Trade Unions Should Retarget Activities

MM1609121194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Lyubov Tsukanova: "Fall Targets of Trade Union Complaints"]

[Text] The recent meeting involving representatives of sectoral and regional trade unions within the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] in St. Petersburg scheduled an all-Russian trade union action for 27 October, which will take the form that local organizations choose, to whit rallies, marches, demonstrations, and maybe even strikes. The struggle to preserve jobs, fitting pay and labor remuneration has been declared the priority in trade union activity.

Since the FITUR's main complaints are directed at the government and the latter is being blamed for the present economic ills (as the result of its tough anti-inflationary policy, refusal to increase the minimum wage to the minimum subsistence level, and so on), the demands made during the protest actions will largely be directed at the federal authorities. This is indirectly confirmed by FITUR leader Mikhail Shmakov's statement to the effect that when economic demands are not met they become political demands.

By struggling against unemployment, delays in the payment of wages, and violations in the sphere of labor remuneration the trade unions are undoubtedly peforming their social function. The question therefore is not whether they are entitled to do so or even what form this should take but rather whom they are fighting and to whom they are directing their demands.

Confidence in the future is an important element in citizens' social protection. That is why the rise in unemployment is causing disquiet among the population, disquiet that is constantly fanned by the opposition. It is not surprising that trade unions say that saving jobs is one of their priorities. However, I must point out that the unemployment figures cited by the FITUR differ considerably from the official figures. A current unemployment figure of 4.5 million features in FITUR statements, that is over 5 percent of the able-bodied population. According to figures provided by the Federal Employment Service for your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, as of 1 August there were 1.3241 million unemployed registered in Russia (there are no official figures as yet for 1 September), in other words the level of unemployment stands at 1.6 percent. This does not mean that the threat of unemployment does not exist, but obviously the extent of the threat is being considerably exaggerated. Why?

The fact is that over the last few years observance of labor legislation and labor remuneration has not improved. However, here the trade unions' complaints should be aimed not so much at Moscow as at their own organizations, whose duties include settling this problem and cooperating with the administrations of enterprises and establishments. As for Moscow, it is well known that the Federal Service for Supervising Compliance with Labor Legislation and Labor Remuneration was recently set up under the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and, according to its leader, Deputy Minister Vladimir Varov, it intends to exercise oversight and supervisory functions.

The general opinion is that the greatest problem today is the wage arrears, which, according to FITUR figures, total over 3 trillion rubles. However there is no differentiation in this huge figure between the state's debts to "budget-funded personnel" and enterprises' debts. However, in the opinion of Sergey Khramov, leader of the "Sotsprof" Association of Russian Trade Unions, the problem of wage arrears should primarily be resolved within the enterprise framework. The commission set up on government instructions and comprising representatives of the Federal Administration for Insolvency and Bankruptcy and the aforementioned Federal Service for Supervising Compliance with Labor Legislation and Labor Remuneratioan has revealed that delays with paying wages at enterprises are generally a matter of commercial intrigue by leaders. "Sotsprof" in particular confirms this by the results of local strikes which it organized in May and June, which caused wages to be paid immediately.

We would note the different approach to the implementation of citizens' labor rights manifested by the "traditional" trade unions and the "new" ones which are adapting to working with the market and a mixed economy. Whereas the "traditional" unions still rely on structures of authority and expect them to resolve problems, the "new" unions are directing their gaze at specific employers and are primarily cooperating with them. In conditions where around 70 percent of the country's enterprises have been floated or have switched to private ownership, the reorientation and retargeting of trade union work is probably a more correct option than continuing to blackmail the authorities, especially since this blackmail often stems from enterprise leaders using trade union organizations as the "representatives of the working masses"—and that is no secret either.

Therefore FITUR's planning of protest actions in the fall may of course give trade union leaders political clout but will hardly help to resolve the quite specific tasks of protecting working people from the specific people responsible for the dismissals, wage holdups, and poor labor remuneration. We would point out that there have not as yet been any announcements of a "working people's fall offensive" from the so-called free trade unions. Sergey Khramov said the following on this score: "We do not work according to season. When I am asked whether I expect social cataclysms in the fall I say that this is the area in which I work. And if I expect them I must be doing a bad job."

Media Issues

Workers To Cut Airtime Unless Debt Paid

LD1509171494 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Video report by Vadim Glusker]

[Text] Today, Russian communications workers are threatening that they will create new problems for television workers, or more specifically, for TV viewers. Unless debts are paid, they are intending a sharp cut in the number of programs. On 20 October, all Russian TV and radio stations will relay nothing but news programs. Although not everything has been sorted out in Moscow and St. Petersburg, in other places people will lose "Santa Barbara" and "The Wild Rose" for the day.

This was decided upon today at a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Communications Workers Trade Union. They have decided to take this step due to a financial predicament: The debt of state TV companies to regional TV centers reached 410 billion rubles on 1 September. TV centers in Chita, Vladivostok, and Arkhangelsk have already been declared bankrupt. According to forecasts, over 80 percent of all Russia's TV centers will be in the same boat by the end of 1994.

To keep "The Wild Rose" flowering, the communications workers are demanding that the Russian Government pay all debts within one month.

Criticism was also expressed against Mikhail Poltoranin, who said on Ostankino TV on 10 September that the Volgograd TV center has already been privatized. It was announced today however that this does not correspond to the reality.

[Begin unnamed TV official recording] Our workers are angry at Poltoranin's remarks. Not only our workers, but also the committee for the privatization of the state property. [end recording]

The subject of property was mentioned a lot at the meeting. The Ostankino representative was always on the defensive.

[Begin unnamed representative recording] We are not getting enough money. [end recording]

There was no constructive dialogue. Communications workers expressed criticisms of other nature as well.

[Begin unnamed TV official recording] We are fighting to keep afloat the network of your programs, whereas you and your journalists are even resisting [as heard]. [end recording]

At the end, the communications workers adopted a resolution demanding that state TV companies stop using airtime paid for by the state budget for transmitting commercial broadcasts and advertising.

This is a devastating blow for Ostankino: Eight hours of its daily broadcasting are sponsored by a certain company, GMS, which allegedly pays Ostankino $180,000 for the airtime daily.

Zhirinovskiy Wins Libel Case Against Gaydar

LD1509164894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—A Moscow district court ordered today that ex-premier Yegor Gaydar and liberal daily IZVESTIYA pay moral damages of 500 thousand roubles (about 240 dollars) each to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian ultra-nationalist Liberal-Democratic Party.

Zhirinovskiy sued them for libel and won the case.

In May, IZVESTIYA published Gaydar's article headlined "Staking on Rascals" in which the former head of the Russian Government called Zhirinovskiy "a fascist" and "a leader of fascists".

The court also ordered that IZVESTIYA refute allegations against Zhirinovskiy "in a form prescribed by the court".

TV, Radio Leaders Discuss Creation of Trade Union

LD1509155194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1050 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report over video by correspondent Eduard Bukhalov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today it can be said that the category of workers who have no social protection includes those who work for state radio and television companies. Their funding is being cut. Because of non-payments, those working on transmission lines switch off or reduce transmission periods. Experienced journalists, producers, television cameramen, those working with television equipment, have been moving to commercial organizations.

In order to discuss measures for self-protection, chairmen and director generals of state radio and television companies of the European regions of Russia have got together at a meeting in Tver. They will discuss principles for creating a trade union. It will serve as a basis for republics, regions, and districts to set up Russia's trade union of television and radio companies' staff.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin To Study Draft 1995 Budget

LD1509193794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry is completing work on a draft budget for 1995 to be submitted for consideration by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the beginning of next week, acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin told journalists Thursday. He believes the government will be able to submit the document to the State Duma by October 1.

Speaking on the implementation of this year's budget, Dubinin pointed out that taxes are still only collected at 60-70 percent of the planned level. Due to low revenues budget items are being financed at a maximum of 80-85 percent.

Dubinin said the draft budget for 1995 envisioned a "realistic level of tax collectibility," though the taxation bodies and the tax police will be improving these figures.

Dubinin is convinced that inflation may be kept down to 5-6 percent a month until the end of this year, while in 1995 this rate may become the monthly average. He said he expected prices to grow by no more than twice in 1995.

Dubinin also said the Finance Ministry will start developing a draft budget for 1996 immediately after the draft budget for 1995 is approved.

Government Achieves Favorable Balance in Foreign Trade

LD1509221094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2048 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Irina Bolshova]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—Russia's foreign trade turnover (excluding the rest of the former Soviet Union) has totalled some 46 billion USD over the first eight months of the year which exceeds last year's corresponding figure by 7.9 percent.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations told BUSINESS- TASS correspondent about it on Thursday. Favourable balance in Russia's foreign trade at present is at 11.7 billion USD.

Russian exports totalled 28.8 billion USD in January through August (an increase of 9.3 percent over corresponding figure in August, 1993).

Russian imports totalled 17.1 billion USD (an increase of 5.5 percent).

Industrialized countries accounted for most part of the increase in Russia's foreign trade turnover. Exports to these countries made up 19.3 billion USD, whereas imports therefrom - about 12 billion USD. Compared to the same period in 1993, respective increases amounted to 17.9 and 21.7 percent.

On the other hand, a decreasing trend in Russia's turnover of trade with the rest of the world has persisted. As to developing countries, the trade turnover amounted to 5.6 billion USD (a decrease of 9.4 percent); followed by the former member states of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance - 5.3 billion USD (a decrease of 15.0 percent); Russia's trade turnover with China, North

Korea, Laos and former Yugoslavia amounted to 3.4 billion USD (a decrease of 7.7 percent).

The increase in the cost volume of exports was brought about mainly by an increase in the physical volume of exported raw materials (80 percent of the total volume).

In January through August, 1994, Russia exported 59.3 million tonnes of crude oil (an increase of 12 percent). In the same period, imported oil products amounted to some 25 million tonnes (an increase of 17 percent).

Russia's natural gas exports totalled over 71.2 billion cubic meters (an increase of 16 percent).

Central Bank Chairman on Possible Depression

LD1509200294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1707 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Irina Zolotaryova and Svetlana Ivanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 15 TASS—The Russian economy is likely to enter a period of depression next year, with public production stabilizing at a low critical level, Chairman of Russia's Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko said on Thursday [15 September]. His forecast was based on the calculations made by the Central Bank and other economic governing bodies.

Addressing an international banking congress in St. Petersburg, Gerashchenko said the estimated GDP would be four to seven percent lower in 1995 as compared with this year, industrial decline was likely to drop to about 15 percent, and labour productivity (by national income) would make up 13 percent.

The Central Bank's chief noted a transition to the depression implied a balance between destructive and creative trends in the economy. The curtailing of money-losing industries and factories is to be offset by an increasing output of products meeting the market demands and boosting production accumulation. The Central Bank will take these factors into account when shaping its monetary and crediting policy.

Gerashchenko expressed concern over the current trend towards a sharp decline in state capital outlays in the economy and towards shifting the accent in this sphere to self-regulation in the financial sector. We cannot be one hundred percent sure that at the moment private entrepreneurs have enough investment potentialities to offset the shrinking state capital investments, he stressed.

According to the Central Bank's chairman, it is noteworthy that the real credit interest rate in Russia is now higher than that of western countries, which potentially bolsters foreign investors' interest in the Russian market. This is also furthered by the current situation on the currency market, where the gradual fall in the Russian rouble exchange rate is much slower than its inflationary depreciation, which makes the rouble more attractive from the investment point of view and checks the "dollar invasion" of the Russian economy.

Study of Banking Activities Launched

MM1509135794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Banks of Russia Subjected to Careful Study"]

[Text] The Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology has embarked on a study entitled "Banks in Contemporary Russia" on the instructions of the Russian Presidential Staff. During this study, the first ever in our country, the leaders and leading personnel of 95 major Russian banks will be polled. Their activity encompasses 14 of the country's regions. Candidate of Philosophical Sciences Olga Kryshtanovskaya, director of the Institute of Applied Politics, who is directing the study, said that the aim of the work is to provide the country's leadership with the fullest possible information about the state of the banking system in Russia. The material gleaned from this study may quite possibly be a crucial argument in the protracted dispute between the government and the Central Bank of Russia over foreign banks' access to the Russian market.

Government Discusses Central Regions' Agriculture

LD1509200394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] A government meeting Thursday discussed the possibility of turning Russia's central regions into major agricultural producers. "Elite regions cannot be made mediocre," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said commenting on a draft federal program for developing Central Russia's agricultural complex for the 1994-2000 period.

By 2000, the program envisions an increase in Russia's total agriculture output of 12 percent, grain by 7 million tonnes, sugar beet by 5 million tonnes, sunflower by 1.45 times, vegetables by 1.3 times. Vegetable oil production is to reach 637,000 tonnes a year and sugar - 2.2 million tonnes annually.

To implement the program, it is necessary to determine what share of expenses will be covered by the federal budget and what share by the regional one. Chernomyrdin said, the center must finance the construction of roads, energy installations and gas pipelines.

At the same time, acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin believes, "it is impossible to significantly raise investments for the region within the next two years."

Vice Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said he has doubts about the need to boost agricultural production, and said he views the key problem as a lack of solvent demand. He proposed curbing agricultural production in areas where it is less profitable than in the central and southern parts of Russia.

The government proposed that the Economics Ministry finalize the program in unison with the Agriculture Ministry, Finance Ministry and other bodies involved, with a view towards focussing on market mechanisms for its financing.

Coal Company To Close 9 Mines

MK1509130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Andrey Baranovskiy under the "Restructuring" rubric: "'Rosugol' Announces First Mine Closure. Independent Miners' Union Claims Company Has No Authority To Do So"]

[Text] At yesterday's meeting in Moscow of a working group of the interdepartmental commission on socioeconomic problems of coal- producing regions, Valeriy Zaydenvarg, deputy general director of the "Rosugol" company, announced the closure of the first nine mines. In particular, five mines in the Moscow coal field, two mines in the Kizilovskiy field, the "Khalmer-Yu" mine in the Pechora field, and the "Anzherskaya" mine in Kuzbass will cease operations starting 1 January 1995. This decision marks the start of implementing the restructuring program for Russia's coal industry, which was drawn up by "Rosugol."

Meanwhile, Aleksandr Sergeyev, spokesman for the Independent Miners' Union, has told your SEGODNYA correspondent that "Rosugol" has started closing down mines not only without giving thought to problems of the miners' employment prospects and social safety nets, but also having no technical blueprints for the mine closure. Moreover, Mr. Sergeyev said that "Rosugol" has no authority whatsoever to close the mines because this authority rests with the interdepartmental commission. In his view, "in Kuzbass, where the population in 10 out of 19 cities is entirely dependent on coal production, the closure of mines could trigger a social explosion."

Progress Reported on New Diamond Supply Deal

MK1509124094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "De Beers Reports Progress in Talks With the Russian Federation"]

[Text] The Russian Government and De Beers corporation have achieved "substantial progress" in negotiations on working out a new agreement on Russian diamond supplies to the world market, a De Beers spokesman said yesterday. The sides in particular reached agreement on procedural matters and achieved a substantial advance on other major problems of mutual cooperation. The source did not specify which problems were discussed, however, citing an agreement to maintain confidentiality of the negotiating process.

Defense Enterprises To Form 11 Industrial Groups

MK1509123094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Kupriyanov under the "Association" rubric: "Defense Sector Sets Up Multinational Corporations"]

[Text] A multinational financial-industrial group named "International Air Engines" will be set up on the basis of the Aviation Engine Building Union, which includes the "Perm Engines" joint-stock company, the Samara-based "Trud" state scientific- production enterprise, and the Ukrainian "Motorsich" production association (from the city of Zaporozhye); the group will deal with designing and manufacturing aviation, space, and industrial engines. This decision was made at the 14 September collegium meeting of the State Defense Industry Committee. According to Vasiliy Zhigulin, chief of the Main Property, Demonopolization, and Entrepreneurship Administration, another financial-industrial group, "NK Engines," is at the formation stage; the group will include the Samara-based "NK Engines" joint-stock company, the "Komposit" joint-stock company from Kaliningrad (Moscow Oblast), the "Antheus" aviation building company, and a number of other enterprises.

Over 1994-1995, Mr. Zhigulin said, according to the business plan drawn up by the State Defense Industry Committee, a total of 11 financial-industrial groups will be created, including "Optical Electric Appliances and Equipment" (on the basis of the LOMO joint- stock company in St. Petersburg) and "Speed Fleet" (with the Nizhniy Novgorod-based "Vympel" central design bureau as the chief founder). In Mr. Zhigulin's view, defense enterprises that are part of the financial-industrial groups will not change their areas of production expertise and will keep the privileges they are currently entitled to (for instance, conversion loans). The composition of the financial-industrial groups will be determined by the State Defense Industry Committee's interdepartmental commission under Committee Chairman Viktor Glukhikh, Vasiliy Zhigulin said.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Missile Experts: Proposed ABM System 'Senseless Toy'

MK1609082094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer in the "Umbrella" column: "A Hundred New Nuclear Missiles Near Moscow. The Russian Leadership Will Have 10 Minutes To Leave in the Event of a Nuclear Attack"]

[Text] The new A-135 domestic nuclear interceptor missile was developed by the "firm" of Academician Anatoliy Basistov, chief designer of all domestic antiballistic missile systems, when U.S. Pershings were being deployed in Western Europe, and the estimated enemy warheads' "approach time" was reduced to several minutes. This week, following a 15 September inspection of the antimissile complex in the area of Sofrino near Moscow, General Grachev is to make a decision: Either to deploy the A-135 system or scrap it. The Defense Ministry deemed the subject of this trip too delicate, and therefore no journalists accompanied the minister.

The A-135 is apparently the most advanced of the existing strategic antimissile systems. It ensures interception ("close" and "distant") of enemy warheads and their destruction with nuclear atmospheric explosions. The system fully corresponds to the terms of the Soviet-U.S. 1972 ABM Treaty.

The system has been ready for three years and is only awaiting the defense minister's "combat duty placement" decision: A hundred missiles and nuclear warheads for them are lying at special depots near Moscow. To deploy A-135 nuclear antiballistic missiles, it is planned to use the positions of obsolete interceptor missiles (A-50 and A-30) in the Moscow ABM belt. The A-135 system also includes a leading-edge and purportedly highly effective Don radar system which is already in operation.

Of course, everybody understands that the A-135 system in principle is incapable of protecting Moscow against a massed nuclear strike, but it can destroy the first echelons of nuclear charges and therefore gain approximately 10 minutes for our political and military leadership which, if it tries, will be able during this time to issue and pass to strategic nuclear forces a combat order for a retaliatory strike. (In the event of a full-scale nuclear world war, warheads would never be launched all together, in a salvo. Nuclear explosions should be divided either in space or in time: Otherwise one warhead can be lost in the fire of another "fratricidal" nuclear burst).

At present Russian nuclear forces (especially the Strategic Rocket Forces) are in a state of constant readiness to act in the "counter-retaliation" nuclear strike regime. Should information be received about the launching of enemy missiles, a decision about a retaliatory strike must be made literally within minutes and therefore there would be no time for "hot line" talks with Washington which theoretically could prevent war at the last moment. Furthermore, the "counter-retaliatory" strike strategy does not rule out the theoretical possibility of an accidental full-scale nuclear war as a result of a series of technical mistakes which simply cannot be straightened out for lack of time.

Generally, Moscow believes that following the end of the cold war a less dangerous "retaliation" strategy should be adopted. In this event the order to launch our missiles will come only after enemy warheads have reached Russian territory, for instance, during those 10 minutes while the nuclear bursts of A-135 missiles destroy the first echelon of warheads targeted at Moscow.

Strategic Rocket Forces specialists, however, believe that the A- 135 system is a senseless toy, because an extra 10 minutes does not in principle decide anything. Experts maintain that it would be more sensible to begin the building of new super-strong command and control posts as well as missile silos capable of surviving direct nuclear hits. But there are no funds for such a capital defense construction program in the country. It is cheaper to deploy the available A-135 system. True, the deployment of a hundred new missiles with nuclear warheads in direct proximity to Moscow will hardly be enthusiastically received by the metropolitan community.

New Weapons Systems Displayed at Klimovsk

LD1509215494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report over video by correspondent A. Leslyak; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] A couple of days ago General Grachev spoke of the need to reinforce the border units in Tajikistan with the latest Russian military equipment. Today journalists were given the opportunity of viewing some examples of this equipment and at the same time, to learn of some of the problems accompanying its production.

[Leslyak] The town of Klimovsk near Moscow is not well known for its main products—high-precision weapons for local conflicts. The combat equipment is made by the Precision Machinery Research Institute. Here is a unique system for remote intelligence gathering, a small pilotless vertical take-off aircraft weighing about half a quintal is fitted with tele-instruments, locators, and measuring apparatus. The Counterintelligence Service, border troops, chemical workers, ecologists, and the fishing fleet would be delighted to have such a helper. But who will pay for the world-class development.

Here is another robot. This one is for finding and destroying mines. How many would it have saved in Kuwait, Nicaragua, and in Abkhazia? However, the head of Russian engineering troops does not even allow any reports on the new equipment with underground television.

Finally there is the PALASH, a ship-based system for destroying low-flying targets with a firing speed of 10,000 [rounds] per minute. The television cameraman did not even have time to react before the volley was fired and hundreds of shells sped toward the two-meter target. [passage omitted]

Grachev Trip Linked to Military District

MM1609084994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

["Commentary" by Sergey Ovsiyenko: "'Arbat Military District' May Become Autonomous"]

[Text] Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev has been notable these days for frenzied activity. In a short period of time he has traveled between Moscow, Totsk, Copenhagen, Smolensk, Nizhniy Novgorod, Voronezh, and Boguchar.

With the exception of his visit to Denmark, where an agreement on military cooperation between the two countries was signed, the trip was by way of an inspection. P. Grachev acquainted himself with Russian and U.S. peacemakers' tactics at the Totsk test range and, after awarding them a "solid four out of five," he visited an exhibition of arms and military hardware in Nizhniy Novgorod, saying that it fits in with the concept for the Russian Army's development.

The minister's route then took him to Voronezh Oblast, where the 10th Tank Division has been withdrawn from Germany. Gen. Grachev inquired about the provision of amenities at their new base for the families of servicemen and accommodations for personnel.

Prior to this he inspected the 144th Motorized Rifle Division stationed in Yelna, Smolensk Oblast. And here Pavel Grachev made a statement that shed light on the aims of this inspection. According to him, they are as follows: A powerful grouping is being set up on the basis of the Moscow Military District "to perform combat tasks in the Western theater of military operations." It is, after all, no coincidence that what are considered to be the Russian Army's crack units and combined formations, previously stationed in Germany and the Baltic, have been moved to the district's territory.

The Moscow Military District is becoming part of the elite not only by virtue of the troops from the Western Group of Forces and Northwest Group of Forces that have been moved to its territory. The objectives and tasks facing the district, which is now a border district, are also determined by its status, according to which, the defense minister said, it should resolve them autonomously.

Whereas people are familiar with our Armed Forces' elite units (the Kantemir and Taman Divisions and the Teplyy Stan Motorized Rifle Brigade), this is probably the first time that they have heard of an autonomous military district.

Autonomy presupposes that the district exercises its own command and control of the troops, has its own communications and rear services support, and its own pay for officers and enlisted men, which will undoubtedly be considerably higher than that of the motorized riflemen or tank personnel of the nonautonomous Siberian Military District, for instance.

The subunits and units of the Kantemir and Taman Divisions are known to us not only from the Red Square military parades of the former Soviet eras. The tanks of the crack combined formations rolled along the streets and embankments around the White House in August 1991 and October 1993.

It is quite logical to suppose that the autonomous military district will also include units from the internal troops' operational separate division (Balashikha) and the airborne troops (Tula) which sided with the supreme commander in chief in August and October.

Thus a real autonomous military district may appear on the site of the mythical "Arbat Military District"—an autonomous district where service will be considered highly prestigious.

'Preliminary Assessments' of Grachev Tour Cited

MM1609091394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "...Camp in a Field. Moscow Military District Taking the 'Main Hit' in Providing Facilities for Combined and Other Units Withdrawn From Abroad"]

[Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported that Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, has visited many Moscow Military District garrisons this week.

The minister's working tour is not yet over. But, given that Army Gen. Pavel Grachev has already visited the "hottest spots" in Smolensk, Nizhniy Novgorod, and Voronezh Oblasts, certain preliminary assessments and conclusions can already be drawn.

First and foremost we need to say why the Moscow District has, as Army Gen. Pavel Grachev stressed, taken the "main hit" in providing facilities for the troops that have been withdrawn. This is linked above all with the change in the structure of the district and its role in the entire defense system. Back on day one of the working tour the defense minister stressed that the "appearance" of the district had been finally determined in line with the previously adopted plan. The main task now is to provide facilities for the troops as quickly as possible and to organize active and high-quality combat training.

A feature of the situation in many garrisons (above all, Yelnya and Boguchar) is that the combined units have been forced to start providing facilities virtually from scratch. In other words, they have been forced to organize their life and combat training at green-field sites.

A great deal also depends on the local authorities. And during the tour, the defense minister stressed, he has been able to see for himself that their attitude to servicemen's problems has fundamentally changed. The time when indiscriminate and often entirely unfounded criticism of the Army was considered "good form" has become a thing of the past. Things are different now. This was felt in Yelnya, in Nizhniy Novgorod, and particularly in Boguchar.

The pace of construction—particularly housing construction—should be particularly mentioned. Military camps at garrisons are now being built by foreign firms.

Whereas the work in Nizhniy Novgorod is virtually over (a fine military camp has been built there), a South Korean firm is clearly slipping behind schedule in the Boguchar region. This alarming fact prompted the defense minister to meet with Mr. Pak—a representative of the general contractor—and warn him about possible fines.

But the main meetings, of course, were with those who have now been forced to bear the burden of moving to a new permanent deployment site. Such meetings were held at each garrison. Talking with the servicemen, the defense minister made no secret of his concern about the problems which they are encountering every day. "I am not forgetting about them, and, once my visit to Moscow Military District garrisons is over, I will be devoting even greater attention to the problem of the speediest provision of facilities for the men," he stressed.

The defense minister's working tour continues.

Uranium Theft From 'Closed' City Reported

BR1509141794 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 13 Sep 94 p 17

[Enrico Franceschini report: "Artsamas, Bomb City"]

[Text] Artsamas 16—The nonexistent city lies beyond a sign which reads, "no through road." Anyone chance passerby would see the road disappearing into the forest and would say: That road must come to an end nearby; it does not go anywhere. But if you follow it, the road suddenly widens to make room for a red-brick roadblock with an automatic gate and a double fence of barbed wire. Beyond that lie the first houses of Artsamas 16—the "cradle" of the Soviet nuclear bomb, the largest center for nuclear weapons research, manufacture, and assembly in the whole of Russia. Actually it is much more than a research center: a city of 80,300 inhabitants, almost as large as Pavia or Viterbo [Italian towns], which has never appeared on any map. This, because it is a secret city, a "closed" city, which nobody can enter or leave freely.

Nevertheless, 9.5 kg of enriched uranium did leave this "closed" city a few weeks ago. It was supposed to be sold to "atom merchants," dealers who try to clandestinely procure the ingredients for building nuclear bombs. The thieves were arrested and the uranium was recovered. It was subsequently discovered that it was of a kind that could not be used for military purposes. But thefts of this kind now occur in Russia at the rate of one every week. And the suspicion that the "closed city" is no longer perfectly sealed is causing the West to tremble.

In the West too, of course, military bases and nuclear research centers are not as open to the public as a shopping mall. But a "closed" city is another matter. In order to form an idea of it, you must imagine a vast fir and beech forest right in the middle of Russia, like this one, 800 km east of Moscow. Now imagine that a clearing of 200 square km has been created in the midst of the forest. A city has been built in there. Around the city a barbed wire fence 800 km long has been erected, with frequent guard posts, observation towers, and alarm systems. Only one road leads to the city, the one beyond the "no through road" sign. The city has everything, just like a real city—factories, offices, stores, schools, gardens, a movie theater, a theater, a hospital, a stadium, and of course a mayor and a city council.

A Million People Do Not Exist

But nobody can prove that it exists. It is not shown on geographical or road maps. It has a telephone area code, but you will not find it in any directory. It has a maternity clinic, but the children born there have Moscow recorded as their birthplace in their passports. It has a soccer team that takes part in a regular championship, but the other competing teams belong to other "closed cities," and you will not find a single newspaper in the whole of Russia that reports the match results.

There are 10 "closed" cities, with a total population of 700,000, plus a further 100 smaller ones, with a further 800,000 people. Who are these 1.5 million men and women living in ghost towns? They are scientists, technicians, workers in the military and civilian nuclear industry, plus their families, plus all those necessary to the functioning of a city—garbage men, for instance, store assistants, waiters, teachers. And so forth. Somebody dubbed this complex of top-secret "closed" cities the "Nuclear Archipelago." And Artsamas 16 is the unofficial capital of this archipelago. This, because it was the first "closed" city: It was founded by Beriya, Stalin's executioner, in 1946. It was supposed to be the Soviet answer to America's Los Alamos. And it became so. Now we know that it houses the headquarters of the Experimental Physics Institute, the nation's premier nuclear research institute. It is also the home of "Avanguard," the electrical engineering factory that produces nuclear warheads for strategic missiles. Andrey Sakharov worked here for 16 years.

At first sight, Artsamas 16 seems hermetically sealed, in accordance with its reputation. The guard post at the end of the "no through road" is well defended by uniformed troops. From time to time the gate opens to allow an army truck to enter or leave. More rarely, civilian vehicles carrying people in civilian clothing come and go, after careful inspection of passes. Artsamas 16's deputy mayor, Valentin Mamyshev, explained by telephone: "We have not adopted any additional security measures. We have the usual entry and exit procedures. As far as I know, the theft of the 9 kg of uranium was the first case of this kind to have ever occurred here."

But in post-communist Russia, with the collapse of the dictatorship, came the collapse of any kind of discipline, and even the rigid system for monitoring the "closed" cities seems less strict than before. A few kilometers away from the "no through road" sign there is a village of dachas and tiny plots of land where the inhabitants of Artsamas 16 can cultivate small private allotments where they grow potatoes and cucumbers—essential foods to supplement their winter diet: "At one time," one of the allotment owners said, "we were forced to grow our potatoes inside the city, in the gardens, in any plot of free land. Now they let us come as far as here. That is something new."

Lost Privileges

At Diveyevo, the nearest town to Artsamas 16, Yuriy Bragin, a nuclear physicist confirmed: "We have never been as free to come and go as we have in the past two years." So free that he has stopped working as a physicist and has opened a tiny brewery in Diveyevo. He earns three times as much as before: "Science is finished in Russia," he complained. "This is why I started brewing beer."

The longer you spend on the "no through road," the clearer it becomes where the breach in the wall of the Nuclear Archipelago lies. In the Soviet Union the inhabitants of the "closed" cities, the "atomtchiki," enjoyed privileges: They relinquished freedom of movement (not that there was much of that even for the inhabitants of "open" cities), and in exchange lived in more comfortable houses, food was always abundant in their stores, and their pay was well above average. It was not a luxurious life by Western standards, but compared to the standards of the USSR, it prompted sufficient envy for people to say: "The atomtchiki live like kings."

The end of communism, the cuts in the state budget, and the inflation which eats away at salaries have changed this relatively idyllic picture. Now Moscow's stores offer a much more tempting cornucopia than those of the "closed" cities. A scientist's income, 300-500 rubles a month, is now close to the national average; and moreover it is paid several months late—an unwelcome and unfair practice, but one common to all public employees in Russia. It is the fault of the crisis. It is no longer a privilege to live in one of the "closed" cities. It is a sentence. The Nuclear Archipelago is starting to appear to its inhabitants like a gulag. They need more and more to grow potatoes in their allotments. And they need, and want, more and more to leave.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin has already rushed to Artsamas 16 once in order to quell a strike: Nobody in the city had been paid their wages for months. On another occasion 36 Artsamas 16 scientists were stopped at Moscow airport as they were trying to board a flight for North Korea, where fabulous contracts awaited them in exchange for nuclear know-how. And throughout the summer there have been constant reports of Russian workers, technicians, and engineers discovered trying to sell uranium rods or bars of plutonium around Europe. Apart from the case of the "harmless" 9.5 kg, Moscow denies that the nuclear materiel comes from the "closed" cities. Not a single gram is missing, according to the Kremlin: "Everything is under control." We really hope so. But from a close vantage point, the impression is that a "no through road" sign is not enough to "close" the Nuclear Archipelago, unless its "islands" receive prompt wages and better living standards as soon as possible.

Military Exercises To Be Held in North Caucasian District

LD1509164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow September 15 TASS—Planned command-and- headquarters exercises will be conducted in the North Caucasian Military District from September 20 to September 24 in the course of which various aspects of troop control in different situations will be trained, a spokesman for the press center of the ground forces of Russia told ITAR-TASS today.

Colonel-General Vladimir Semyonov, commander of the ground forces of the Russian Federation, will be in charge of the exercises.

Colonel-General Yuriy Bukreyev, chief of the main staff of the land forces, will head the main headquarters of the military exercises.

It should be noted that for the first time in the practice of command-and-headquarters exercises, control over all formations and units of fighting services and branches of arms stationed on the territory of the district, will be entrusted to commander of the troops of the district, Colonel-General Alexey Mityukhin.

Shipyard Workers To Strike Over Northern Fleet Debts

MM1509160794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Dmitriy Litovkin: "Ship Repair Personnel Prepare To Strike"]

[Text] A strike by workers and employees at the "Sevmorput" ship repair yard is scheduled for 26 September. The enterprise collective was prompted to make this decision as a result of the disregard for the production unit's problems manifested by the command of the Northern Fleet, which has been sent repeated letters and cables requesting and demanding that the three-month wage arrears be eliminated and that the 30 billion rubles which the Northern Fleet owes for repairs to its ships be paid.

On the day of the strike, Vladimir Sheshchukov, cochairman of the plant strike committee, said, all the fleet's ships at the plant will have their water, steam, and power disconnected and will be removed from the enterprise's territory to the roadstead. This involves several dozen ships, including some with nuclear power units.

Moscow Workmen Find Containers of Suspected Mustard Gas

MM1609085994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Dangerous Find"]

[Text] A large number of containers of what is thought to be mustard gas has been found in Moscow.

It was announced at the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations that nine 300-liter barrels, five 50-liter earthenware jars, five 40-liters cans, and one 40-liter glass carboy containing liquid that smelled like mustard gas had been found in the ground when workmen were digging a trench to lay pipes in Vtoroy Krasnoselskiy Lane, near All Hallows' Church, which is undergoing restoration.

Failure To Protect Military Budget Items Hit

MM1609121994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Vladimir Yermolin: "Who Will Protect the Protected Items in the Military Budget: the State Duma, the Government, the President?"]

[Text] The fact that the law in our country always has loopholes is being zealously demonstrated not just by petty officials but by whole ministries. The Finance Ministry, for example, ignores the law which obliges it to finance "protected budget items" in full in all circumstances. We are talking here, in particular, about the money appropriated for the upkeep of the Russian Armed Forces: for pay and wages, for food and clothing, and for utilities. In the first nine months of the current year the Defense Ministry should have received under this heading (I repeat, one protected by law!) 16.036 trillion rubles [R], while the Finance Ministry actually only allocated R9.2 trillion.

Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov has described as dreadful the current situation regarding the financing of the Armed Forces. The committee session held as a matter of urgency last Wednesday was devoted specifically to the problem of Finance Ministry underpayments. It is noteworthy that no one from that department responded to the invitation to take part in the session.

In their evaluation of the state of affairs deputies took as their basis specific examples of financial stagnation affecting military units in districts which they visited in July-August. Lieutenant General Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Directorate for the Military Budget and Financing, assured the session that this woeful picture was typical of the whole of the Armed Forces. As of today, for example, only around 70 percent of September's pay has been funded. What will be the result of the missing 30 percent? The result will be that tens of thousands of officers, warrant officers, ensigns, and contract servicemen have empty wallets. And this despite the fact that military men don't have the opportunity to earn a little extra on the side. However, in fact it is no longer a rare occurrence for an officer, on returning home from duty, to don coveralls and go sweeping the streets, to moonlight constructing dachas, or to unload railcars. The family has to be fed. A one- or two-month delay in issuing pay has become virtually the norm for many military units. This is no longer seen as an emergency by anyone—government or president.

Sergey Yushenkov highlighted a problem such as the construction of housing for servicemen and those discharged into the reserve. In Bryansk Oblast, for example, only R500 million has been allocated for these purposes instead of the agreed R51 billion. This figure represents less than 1 percent.... The deputy described the housing construction situation as "specially depressing." But many other krays and oblasts could probably contest first place here.

The Finance Ministry does not make full payment to the military department, which means that the Defense Ministry does not make full payment to the military districts, and they do not make full payment to the units and garrisons. And the latter slip into the debt trap, owing money to the local authorities. They don't have the wherewithal to pay for electricity, gas, and water. Today, 15 September, the ultimatum issued the military in Ulyanovsk Oblast runs out: Clear your debts or we switch off the electricity and gas. The language of ultimatums should not, of course, be used with the military. We owe the army a great deal, and it is not putting anyone on the spot, for all the opprtunities it has to do so. But one can understand the Ulyanovsk authorities—in our market times everything has to be paid for. However, it is impossible to understand the government and its Finance Ministry, which have put the army on starvation rations. Incidentally, starvation rations have not been mentioned for rhetorical effect. In Ulyanovsk (clearly, they entertain special feelings for the army in that city) there has been no bread delivery to the Suvorov military school for three days. Teachers and pupils are actually existing on dry rations. This example eloquently shows the kind of slough of despond which "market-driven officials" can produce. And what will happen when they start to introduce such experience into other corners of boundless Russia?

The majority of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's readers actually know the realities of today's army life and scarcely need the picture of financial destitution to be painted any further. It is far more important to receive an answer to the question: Who will impose order, and when? The Defense Committee intends to raise the problem of the failure to implement protected military budget items at the first session of the State Duma. But that is still some time off; and then—and I speak for myself—what can we exepect from a Duma which has endorsed such a wretched defense budget? And is it capable of making the government comply with the law? After all, the government has issued a completely unlawful directive modifying the Russian Federation Law on "On the Status of Servicemen"....

The situation is more than worrying. It is already known that the Finance Ministry has specified a military expenditure figure for 1995 of 58 trillion. It came about, by all accounts, quite simply—they multiplied the present puny budget figure of 40.6 trillion by a factor which they dreamed up to take account of inflation, which is again purely in the realm of speculation. Moreover, the Economy Ministry, which knows what it is talking about, believes the multiplication factor should be almost one order of magnitude higher. As Lieutenant General Kuznetsov said, if such a budget is adopted, the financial situation in the army will be simply tragic, although it could already be described as tragic right now.

In general, as was anticipated, by endorsing defense expenditure of 40.6 trillion the parliamentarians have not only failed to resolve the problem of ensuring the upkeep of the Armed Forces but have made the problem even worse. Officials are even contriving to reduce these crumbs. And no one now knows what to do. Issue a law on strict accountability for execution of the defense budget? Naive. We'll get a whole heap of laws which no one carries out. Dismiss the devious finance people. New ones will arrive who will be doomed to try equally zealously to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Who today can give an answer to the simple question: How is the army of great Russia to be maintained, and on what money? The Defense Committee session showed that parliamentarians have no lifesaving prescriptions on this score. The only gratifying thing is that there are still people who sympathize with our problems and who stand up for the Armed Forces, for people who have devoted their efforts to serving the Fatherland.

So, at the end of September, an item "On Executing the Military Budget for 1994 and Military Budget Plans for 1995" will be proposed for the Duma agenda. But meantime, on the suggestion of Aleksandr Piskunov, the comittee intends to send an appropriate letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Federal Assembly

Duma Factions Agree on Simultaneous Elections

LD1509213094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Russian State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin told Interfax Thursday that as a result of a series of confidential meetings, the leaders of six parliamentary factions (the rest were out of the city) agreed to the proposal to hold simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections in June 1996.

Rybkin said his idea was supported by leader of Russia's Choice, Yegor Gaydar, and the leader of the Party for Russian Unity and Concord, Sergey Shakhray. The leader of the Communist Party of Russia, Gennadiy Zyuganov, "took the idea without any special sign of approval, though he failed to make any coherent protest either." The leader of the parliamentary faction of the Democratic Party of Russia, Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Agrarian faction, Mikhail Lapshin, and Vladimir Medvedev from the deputies' group New Regional Policy failed to reject the idea.

Rybkin plans to meet the leaders of four other parliamentary factions: including Vladimir Zhirinovskiy from the Liberal Democratic Party, Yekaterina Lakhova from Russia's Women, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy from YABLOKO and Boris Fedorov from the Liberal Democratic Union of December 12, to discuss this idea with them as well.

Mityukov Comments on Elections, Next Session

MK1609084094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Petr Zhuravlev under the "Saving" rubric: "Elections Are Cheaper Than Referendum on Early Elections. Mikhail Mityukov Expects 'Certain Forces' To Challenge Government This Fall"]

[Text] Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma, told your SEGODNYA correspondent yesterday that he still sticks "with the Constitution" regarding the idea of combining presidential and parliamentary elections 12 June 1996 or any other change in the date of the elections. In Mr. Mityukov's view, there should be an interval between the elections that "would make it possible to safeguard stability in the country and continuity of authorities." Political forces, too, need the interval to adjust their stances in the wake of the parliamentary elections and in the run-up to the elections for president.

The first deputy speaker also pointed to the complexity of the purely legal side of the problem. "The deputies' term of office is laid out in the Constitution's Interim Provisions; the Constitution was passed at a referendum, and it does not provide for a mechanism to amend the provisions," he stressed. "Therefore, the only legitimate way is also to hold a referendum." A referendum, however, "is unlikely to be cheaper than elections," he said, and, hence, the argument that the elections should be held simultaneously for the purpose of saving government money no longer holds. In other words, one will have to pay twice for any other option. By Mr. Mityukov's estimates, there are "enough" deputies at the State Duma who argue this way, but "many have so far been inclined to pass over the question of elections in silence—they are testing the water."

The fall session (the first plenary meeting is scheduled to begin 5 October) will start with a discussion of problems that have been "suggested by life," the deputy speaker thinks. "An attempt will be made to force the government to resign," Mr. Mityukov said. "Certain forces will also raise questions concerning the anniversary of the events of September-October 1993 under one pretext or another." In addition, the State Duma will not be able to avoid discussing "legal regulation of the activity of financial companies" or the implementation of the budget in connection with grain purchases. Mr.

Mityukov said in that regard that if the chamber leadership and "factions attuned to constructive work do not manage to channel the State Duma's activity into specific lawmaking work, we will lose plenty of time once again."

The draft lawmaking schedule for the fall session—till 25 December—lists 200 or so bills. This does not mean, however, the vice speaker explained, that they all would be passed—"they will be under consideration." "We would do well," he said, "if we manage to adopt in general form the 59 bills that have been pinpointed as our priority, and somehow to express our views on legislation returned to the State Duma by the president and the Federation Council, a total of 17 laws." "This would be the optimal observance of the schedule," Mr. Mityukov said.

Government Delays Sending Draft Budget

LD1509150794 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The chairman of the State Duma's committee, Mikhail Zadornov, said today that the Russian Government was not prepared to hand over to the parliament the country's 1995 draft budget by the 15th of the month. He expressed serious concern that the government would be able to do this by the 1st of next month too. The delay, Mikhail Zadornov says, would adversely affect the procedure of the draft's hearings in parliament, which are expected to be no easy ones. Since the national economy was being restructured and the social system in Russian changed, the country had no officially approved budget for three years. As for the budget for the current year, it was adopted by parliament only in mid-summer after numerous amendments and additions.

Defense Committee Discusses Budget Issues

MM1509152994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Yevgeniy Skukin under "In the State Duma" rubric: "Making Cuts or Committing Hara-Kiri?"]

[Text] The first question which the Committee for Defense will submit for discussion by the State Duma is about the implementation of the military budget. This was the decision of a working conference of deputies, who on their arrival from the regions assembled in the Hotel "Moskva," where they familiarized themselves with the service and daily lives of servicemen.

Committee chairman Sergey Yushenkov, stressed that, despite the president's stern directive, the Ministry of Finance is not implementing even the "protected" articles of the military budget. And as a result officers are being left without their monetary allowance for six weeks to two months. Hence there are a whole bunch of insoluble problems. Things have reached the point where they have no clothes to send their children to school in. In many spheres, deputies said, even the normal functioning of military units has been brought to the brink of breakdown. Even in the Ural and Siberian Military Districts, where scheduled company and regimental exercises have been carried out, reserves of resilience are running out. And in Bryansk Oblast less than 1 percent of the sum laid down by law has been allocated to army needs.

And meanwhile, Yushenkov noted, huge sums are being spent on withdrawing from Germany...property of servicemen of the Western Group of Forces which is unsuitable for use and which it would be far wiser to bury on the spot.

Lieutenant General Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chief of the Ministry of Defense Main Directorate for the Military Budget and Financing, who attended the working session, informed deputies that the monetary arrears owing to the Army in September alone stand at around 200 billion rubles [R]. Only R9.2 trillion, or 58 percent, of the R16.036 trillion earmarked for the maintenance of the Army has been received in the first nine months of the year.

Participants in the session noted that there are no other levers for influencing the government at the present time apart from asking the president and the government. In this respect committee deputy chairman Aleksandr Piskunov suggested taking advantage of the fact the law on the procedure for elaborating the budget has been returned by the president for further work, and that certain amendments be made as regards the implementation of the military budget. And the latter, committee members believe, should be funded from a credit plan system—the state may slide into debt, but it is obliged to implement the protected articles of the budget. Of course, cuts in military expenditure must be made, but, nevertheless, within reasonable limits....

Federation Council Discusses Taxes, Budget

MM1509101194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Pavel Anokhin: "Both Center and Regions Need To Change Tax System"]

[Text] On 12 September in the Federation Council a roundtable was held on questions of federalism in which deputies, leaders of ministries, and representatives of Russian Federation components took part.

The main debate developed over problems regarding the shaping of the federal budget and the tax system. Federation Council Deputy Chairman Ramazan Abdulatipov noted that the signing of bilateral agreements between the center and the republics has put both individual Federation components and Russian citizens in an unequal position. Russians must be equal, irrespective of where they live, he stressed.

Sergey Aleksashenko, Russian Federation deputy finance minister, said in his speech that the main federal taxes have been redistributed in favor of Federation components, despite their complaints of unfairness. According to him the problem is complicated by the fact that 67 Russian Federation components are on subsidies. "If all taxes were given back to the regions," he reported, "53 of them would still not be in a position to provide for themselves." The deputy minister gave a detailed analysis of budgetary and taxation mutual relations between the federal center and Tataria [Tatarstan] and Bashkiria [Bashkortostan]. According to him they are difficult but the problem has nonetheless progressed from the deadlock. Tataria has taken on the funding of some federal programs and Bashkiria has pledged to clear its debts to the federal budget by the end of the year.

Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the Committee for the Budget, Taxes, and Banks, briefed those attending on work on laws to change the tax system. According to him, many problems are associated with the constitution, which gives regions broad scope to pursue autonomous tax policies, and the consolidated budget, which is interpreted in different ways by different groups. Pochinok reported that in the near future it will be necessary to double or triple property taxes and to abolish the 3-percent special tax. He also believes that it will be impossible to carry out indexation this fall—"we cannot sustain it"—and he proposed that a legislative solution to the problem be found.

Regional representatives—Yevgeniy Sapiro, chairman of Perm Oblast Legislative Assembly, and Nina Zhupikova, Karelian acting finance minister, subjected to reasoned criticism not only the existing tax system but also the methods of implementing it, especially the lack of conciliation procedures.

When speaking about the upcoming reformation of the tax system Yevgeniy Yasin, leader of the Analysis Center under the Russian Federation president, emphasized the need to reduce the tax burden on producers. He also believes that the position regarding the national economy's subsidized sectors—the coal industry and agriculture—ought to be fundamentally determined.

In the general opinion of the roundtable's participants, the rules of the game have already appeared now. It is important to avoid subjectivism in interpreting and implementing them. The debate showed that both the federal center and the regions now need to change the tax system and the principles of budget formation.

Regional Affairs

Chechen President Decrees Martial Law

LD1509154194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The president of Chechnya today signed a decree on introducing martial law on the territory of the republic from 0000 on Friday.

It is noted that martial law has been introduced in connection with the continuing provocations by the Russian special services and the increasing activities by the gangs belonging to opposition formations. At the same time a curfew is being introduced over the whole territory of Chechnya; it will be in operation from 2200 to 0500.

An Interfax correspondent reports that the decree has already been communicated to the members of the Chechnya Security Council, a meeting of which has ended in Groznyy. In the next few hours it will be communicated to the Cabinet of Ministers and the heads of local administrations.

In order to maintain the martial law regime, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces is instructed to call up the new recruits for 1994 and to carry out a general mobilization. At the same time special entry and exit procedures are going into operation on the territory of the republic. Protection of enterprises and institutions is being intensified. Also, restrictions on the movement of road transport are envisaged in regions where combat actions are possible.

The period during which martial law will be in force will be determined later, Usman Imayev, procurator general of Chechnya stated. He said that this will depend on the future actions—and I quote—of all representatives of the Russian leadership who are striving for destabilization and disorganization in Chechnya. The procurator general said that the introduction of martial law in Chechnya was considerably hastened by documents provided by the Chechen intelligence services. These documents reveal that on 16 July there was a conference of representatives of the Russian special services at which it was planned to complete the first stage of an operation against Chechnya in mid-September. During this stage it was proposed to take control of four major populated points around Groznyy. Then, the procurator general said, it was proposed to neutralize, once and for all, the armed supporters of Dudayev and those of the opposition.

Begins 16 Sep

LD1509145794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Martial law is to be introduced in Chechnya at 11:00, September 16. According to Interfax sources, a draft decree on this measure was passed to President Dudayev on Thursday afternoon.

The preamble of the decree says that martial law is being introduced because of continuing provocations by Russian government forces and intensive operations of the opposition groupings.

The draft decree provides for the introduction of a special entry and exit regime, increased security at vital industrial enterprises and organizations, and a curfew from 22:00 until 05:00. Restrictions will be imposed on the movement of cars in the areas of possible combat operations.

The document says, however, that the functions of the state bodies will not be restricted.

Explanations to the decree say that there are 11 bandit groupings of 1,250 men operating in the republic. It also blames the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service for attempting to use these forces for unleashing an armed conflict.

In August 1994, President Dudayev introduced a state of emergency in Chechnya and in July declared a curfew in Groznyy.

The Provisional Council of the opposition stated on Thursday that Groznyy was planning to begin intensive combat operations against the opposition.

Asked by Interfax if Dudayev would sign the decree, Chechnya's Prosecutor-General Usman Imayev said he was likely to do so as it was a long-overdue measure.

"In the afternoon of September 15, the power ministries will start implementing the decree," he added.

Further on Martial Law

LD1509191794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] [Announcer Mikhail Osokin] We have managed to receive this footage from the territories occupied by the opposition. While the government television is out of order, the opposition's TV studio is continuing to operate here, in the village of Tolstov Yurt.

It appears as a result that the opponents of President Dudayev have gained an important advantage. Leaders of the opposition said again that Dudayev's days are numbered. They said that according to their information, the TV center destroyed by the explosion cannot be repaired. They maintain that the government has managed to resume broadcasting only within Groznyy, using local transmitters.

The opposition camp is busy guessing what counter steps Dudayev can take. The first step has been made. At midnight tonight, martial law is introduced in Chechnya in line with Dudayev's decree.

However, leaders of the opposition are openly showing that they are not afraid. A. Khasbulatov's representative told journalists that the boss would see them, but not before the victory over Dudayev's regime, so they should return in a week or so.

Groznyy Residents 'Unaware' of Ruling

LD1609085594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 6 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy September 16 TASS—Residents of the Chechen capital of Groznyy and even some government ministers are yet unaware of the decree of President Dzhokhar Dudayev who imposed a martial law from Friday and prolonged the curfew for yet another month.

Several government ministers contacted by TASS early on Friday said they knew nothing about the decree.

Residents of Groznyy also missed the news as newspapers come out in the republic irregularly, while the local television went off the air after the tv centre was damaged by a mighty blast on Wednesday.

The Interior Ministry of Chechnya told TASS it was quiet last night in the republic.

Chechens Join Ethnic Russians in Leaving Chechnya

LD1609064194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol September 16 TASS—The ethnic composition of a flow of refugees coming to the Stavropol region from the neighbouring Chechnya is changing. Until recently refugees were mostly ethnic Russians, who had to emigrate from Chechnya because of unbearable legal and economic conditions created for them. Now, however, not only Russians, but also Chechens themselves have to leave the land of their ancestors as a result of the ever toughening "emergency situation" policy, pursued by Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and based on the use of armed force.

According to the information of the interior department of the Stavropol administration, about 1,000 Chechens have already come to the region from Chechnya this year.

Chechnya Seeks Talks With Moscow on Confederation

LD1609105194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0930 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev's adviser has arrived in Moscow on Friday for talks with Russian officials on the possibility of signing a Russian-Chechen treaty.

The official, who wished to remain anonymous, said that the purpose of the visit was to discuss the possibility of a bilateral confederation treaty.

He said a confederation treaty would be fundamentally different to the one proposed earlier (which was similar to that with Tatarstan) and would not affect the sovereign status of the Chechen Republic.

The adviser refused to disclose with which officials in Moscow his visit had been agreed or whom he planned to meet.

Khasbulatov, Avturkhanov Coordinate Actions

LD1609084794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0742 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 16 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Ruslan Khasbulatov, leader of the peacekeeping group in Chechnya, and Umar Avturkhanov, head of the republic's Provisional Council, have found "some basis for mutual understanding." They announced this last night during a joint appearance on the peacekeeping group's TV channel.

Ruslan Khasbulatov declared that the peacekeeping group and the Provisional Council will, from now on, coordinate their actions and he urged the republic's population to switch its allegiance to the forces opposing Dzhokhar Dudayev. Moreover, Khasbulatov referred to the right to use force to topple Dzhokhar Dudayev as the prerogative of the Provisional Council's armed formations, pointedly describing them as "government troops".

Umar Avturkhanov explained the Provisional Council's slowness to act in terms of the wish "to have as few casualties as possible." He also declared that "the day is not far off when the Chechen people will rejoice and will themselves choose their rulers."

The principal basis for mutual understanding between these leaders, who only yesterday were keeping one another at arm's length, at least in public, is evidently the fact, cited by Avturkhanov, that "Dzhokhar Dudayev will not go just like that."

Opposition Leaders Postpone Nadterechnyy Meeting

LD1209125694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By an ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 12 TASS—A meeting of Chechen opposition leaders confronting Dzhokhar Dudayev, which was scheduled to be held in the Nadterechnyy district today, has been put off. Ruslan Martagov, spokesman for the Provisional Council, and opposition leaders regarded it expedient to meet with the representatives of the clergy, elders and social groups of Chechnya to agree on a strategy for their joint actions.

As already reported, Umar Avturkhanov, leader of the Provisional Council, Ruslan Khasbulatov, ex-speaker of the Russian Parliament and Bislan Gantamirov, a leader of one of the most powerful armed groups, were supposed to take part in the meeting.

According to the Provisional Council, the situation in the Nadterechnyy district stays calm. The formation of the opposition armed detachments are still being formed, and combat training is still going on here.

Khasbulatov Supporters Urge Peace

LD1509144294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy 15 Sep (TASS)—The supporters of Ruslan Khasbulatov in Chechnya have called upon their compatatriots to renounce armed confrontation, which would be disastrous for all Chechens, and sit down at the negotiating table to look for a peaceful way out of the tense internal crisis the republic is now in.

Several thousand supporters of the former speaker of the Russian Parliament gathered in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt today to witness the "Saga-dakkar" ceremony, in which the Moslems commemorated all those who have died in the recent armed clashes in Chechnya.

Duma Deputies on Chechnya Fact-Finding Mission

MK1309102094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Kamyshev under the "Situation in Chechnya" rubric: "Deputies Flock to Chechnya Following in Speaker's Footsteps"]

[Text] Taking advantage of a lull in Chechnya, some Russian parliamentarians have decided to size up the situation in the region on their own. Yesterday, State Duma deputy Vladimir Lysenko briefed journalists on the results of his tour of Stavropol Kray, bordering on Chechnya. Meanwhile, his colleague, Anatoliy Shabad, is still touring the rebellious republic.

Anatoliy Shabad, member of the "Russia's Choice" faction, who ventured to pay the Chechens a visit, has outdone his colleagues who prefer to advise the president and the government on a settlement of the crisis without leaving their soft deputy's chairs. But the fighting with his ideological foes at the Supreme Soviet appears to have hardened the deputy's resolve so much that a "solo voyage" in the arms-stuffed republic did not appear to him any more dangerous than a regular tourist cruise in the Mediterranean.

The Chechen authorities, too, however, appear to be pinning certain hopes on the visit. Movladi Udugov, Chechen information and press minister, said yesterday that the Russian deputy was given the possibility "to travel across the republic's territory without hindrance and to meet with representatives of various movements." According to Udugov, Anatoliy Shabad has already met with President Dzhokhar Dudayev and Provisional Council chief Umar Avturkhanov, and plans to visit Ruslan Khasbulatov in the near future.

This will evidently be a particularly sentimental meeting: Some time ago, being unable to bear Shabad's aggressive stance in front of the presidium, the speaker requested that he be saved "from those deputies," a remark which actually kicked off a famous deputies' tournament in various styles of pugilism. It cannot be ruled out that by giving Anatoliy Shabad a free hand, the Chechen authorities are covertly hoping that Ruslan Khasbulatov will simply not survive another encounter with him.

The trip by Vladimir Lysenko, Shabad's colleagues in the State Duma, does not look so romantic (KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported the start of his trip 10 September)—he appraised the Chechen situation in Stavropol Kray. There, Lysenko was once again convinced of the correctness of his idea of closing the border with Chechnya and imposing economic sanctions on it. In the deputy's view, the consequences of these steps for the Chechen economy will force the republic's leaders to adopt a more realistic stance in talks with Moscow.

Paper Cites Remarks by Chechnya Antagonists

MM1409123394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Aug 94 pp 1-2

[Report by Aleksandr Yevtushenko: "In Chechnya They Cut Watermelons and Prepare To Cut Throats. Our Correspondent Almost Becomes a Prisoner of the Caucasus"; followed by editorial correction to 7 September Yevtushenko report]

[Text] Groznyy/Znamenskoye/Tolstoy-Yurt—I was making my way to Dzhokhar Dudayev's news conference. In a corridor of the president's palace in Groznyy I was stopped by two men. One in combat fatigues, the other in civilian dress.

"This your work?" the "combat fatigues" asks threateningly, showing a xerox of the article "They Promised To Kill My Daughter."

"Yes," I say, "there's my signature."

"We are officers of the state security department. At the request of the state security department the Chechen General Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings against you. And we have to arrest you. We give you exactly one hour to leave the republic. You got that?"

It was only at the office of Movladi Udugov, chief of the Department of Information and the Press, that I managed to discover that the pretext for the institution of criminal proceedings was a sentence in the article: "However much the official propaganda tries to cover up the number of people who died in this battle, yesterday morning the whole republic learned that not less than 50 people were killed." This refers to the battle of Argun.

"All this is very serious. If you value your freedom, you'd better scram as quickly as possible," Udugov explained.

The allotted hour is running out. No one takes their eyes off me. There is nothing for it—I went over to the opposition. Or, to be more exact, I went to the opposition—to ask for temporary refuge. I made my way without any special adventures to Znamenka, where Umar Avturkhanov is based. The next day I drove to Tolstoy-Yurt—to see Ruslan Khasbulatov. After all, I had to work. I decided to make my way across Isherskiy Bridge, at one end of which is an Avturkhanov checkpoint, with a Dudayev checkpoint at the other. During lulls in military activities these guys simply drop in on one another and treat each other to watermelons. There being a rich crop of them in Chechnya.

On the opposite bank my driver's documents and press pass were thoroughly examined. Then they conferred about something in Chechen for a long time. I was on the point of thinking: "I've put my foot in it again." But they let me depart in peace. My guide Khalid, a local inhabitant, then said: "The post was told you were in the vicinity. You were saved only by the fact that you are from KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Your paper is read with pleasure on both sides of the bridge."

It has somehow already become customary to divide Chechens into opposition forces and Dudayev's supporters. We sometimes hereby lose sight of the fact that, nevertheless, the majority of inhabitants of the republic belong to neither side. They are simply people who want to live normally. Whoever is in power. Their cordiality and hospitality is amazing. Their patience is enviable. Eternal misfits, branded "bandits," the Chechens only more or less organized their existence, their daily lives, in the seventies and eighties. And again everything has collapsed. They lived in the Union. Then in Russia. Now in the state of Ichkeria. And with every year and every month everything gets worse.

"I, along with very many others, understand that the republic cannot survive without Russia. But ask any one of us whether we are for or against sovereignty. Everyone will reply: "for." I understand that this is against all logic. But that is the way it is," I was told by Ibragim Arsanov, who is one of the people responsible for the security of Khasbulatov's residence.

"The peacemaking mission of Khasbulatov's group can be considered exhausted," Umar Avturkhanvov, chairman of Chechnya's Interim Council told me in an interview. "However much we tried to avoid civil war, it has begun and everything is ablaze. We realized, especially after the events at Argun, that Dudayev does not intend to joke. And that means that we too will take him seriously."

"We still have some hope that Dudayev will come to his senses and step down voluntarily," Ruslan Khasbulatov, leader of the peacemaking group (it is increasingly called the peacemaking forces) said at a press conference. "True, this hope is becoming more slender all the time. Therefore we have summoned people to arms."

"There will be no civil war in Chechnya, however much you journalists want it," Movladi Udugov, chief of the Department of Information and the Press, believes. "The government forces' past and projected actions only amount to the elimination of armed bandit formations whose existence on its territory would not be tolerated by a single civilized state."

Well, and finally—Dzhokhar Dudayev: "Russia has given the bandits 150 billion rubles to undermine Chechnya's state structure and has supplied them with weapons and armored trucks. But we have enough forces to cope with them. And we will do so. And if Russia aids the bandit formations with troops, thousands of volunteers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries of the Muslim world are ready to fly to Chechnya as soon as we give the call. If Russia wants a third world war, it will get one."

Meanwhile, according to the information of the peacemaking group's press center, Dzhokhar Dudayev has held a secret conference of leaders of the power structures on the elimination of Khasbulatov's peacemaking forces. And in Tolstoy-Yurt attacks are expected any day now. According to the information of Khabulatov's intelligence staff, heavy armored vehicles and weapons are being moved up from Groznyy. Peacemaking forces have been posted all over the mountain chain lying between the hostile camps and round-the-clock checkpoints have been set up.

Correction

In the issue of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA for 7 September of this year, in the stop-press report attached to the article "They Promised To Kill My Daughter," our own correspondent Aleksandr Yevtushenko reported that not less than 50 people were killed in the battle at the Chechen Republic city of Argun between government troops and Labazanov's grouping. This information was received from unofficial sources in Chechnya. However, according to the official statistics, the number killed does not exceed 10.

Inconsistency Blamed for Chechnya Problem

MM1209125994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Commentary by Aleksandr Golts under "Topic of the Week" rubric: "Chechnya: At the Fountain Illuminated by Fire"]

[Text] The anniversary of independence in Chechnya was commemorated by the inauguration of a fountain in Groznyy and the burning of several homes during the storming of the city of Argun. A fountain illuminated by the flames of a raging military conflagration. It would appear that such a thing is possible only as a literary device, and even then, only in the style of so-called "fantastic realism" of the famous Marquez. However, Marquez himself, as I recall, denied the justice of this term, claiming that what looks like pure fantasy to a European is reality for Latin America.

In exactly the same way, what is happening in Chechnya looks to a normal Russian like a phantasmagoria: Criminals are not only afforded protection and patronage by the authorities but at a critical moment are actually becoming the authorities' support and shield; mass celebrations are held, whereupon statements ring out that, because of Chechnya, the world is on the brink of a third world war. And there is the blood that is actually flowing to the accompaniment of a lie which no one even tries to disguise as truth (therefore there is no sense in drawing far-reaching conclusions from the fact that Moscow feels a certain sympathy for the Chechen opposition, whose statements show at least some kind of desire to resolve the republic's real problems).

But now that it cannot be ruled out that the Dudayev regime may indeed survive the opposition's onslaught, some analysts and current affairs writers—stressing the "dissimilarity" of Chechnya—are urging the abandonment of attempts to regard Chechnya as Russian territory. As for the uniqueness of the republic's situation, there can be no argument here. After all, it was not in Chechnya alone that a fierce battle for independence and sovereignty began in 1991. And Russia was indisputably correct then not to put the emphasis on coercive methods by asserting its jurisdiction everywhere it was contested. For it very quickly became apparent that to extract oil and diamonds normally, to restore the burned-down automobile plant, and even to combat cholera was possible only by concentrating the efforts of the whole country. Thus today it is possible not to fear that Chechnya will become a model for some other Russian republic or oblast.

However, it is also a fact that centripetal forces in Chechnya itself have proved to be extremely weak. Obviously, this is the result of a combination of several factors: historical memory and the peculiarities of national character, combined with an undeveloped industrial infrastructure. But should it follow from this that Russia should renounce its sovereignty over Chechnya?

I think not. As far as current problems are concerned, such an approach would not resolve a single one of them. Given the fact that we cannot create the border that is being demanded, Chechnya, if the current regime survives, will simply remain a filibuster republic whose "citizens" will carry out raids on nearby and distant Russian regions with the authorities' blessing.

The possibility of receiving guarantees from Groznyy concerning the security of transport communications looks highly problematic. Finally, it is perfectly obvious that the conflict in Chechnya will not cease. One way or another Russia will have to resolve the problem of refugees, the influx of whom is growing, to judge from press reports. You will agree that, in order to have a chance of ensuring Russia's security in this complex situation, it is more rational to proceed on the basis that Chechnya is Russian territory.

These are the tactics, so to speak. Now for the strategy. While trying to resolve the problems connected with Chechnya, Moscow must in no event forget its long-term interests. In order to understand them, let us turn to one of the most important international events of recent times—the sensational decision of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

This underground organization has renounced terrorist activity, the aim of which had been the secession of Northern Ireland from Great Britain. For a quarter of a century, despite the fact that explosions have rocked not only Ulster but London too, the British Government has maintained an extremely hard line in its battle with the IRA, demonstrating no readiness to give way to the threat of terror. And not because it feared an upsurge of separatist tendencies in Scotland, for example. The government was trying to prove, not in words but in deeds, that Great Britain is a great power. Whereby the greatness of any country is determined above all by its ability to ensure the fulfillment of the laws of that state. And it is now possible to observe that, for all the difficulties and the casualties, this firm approach is bringing results.

Today Russia must once again establish itself in the world, prove that it has both the right and the need to carry out an effective policy in such explosive regions of the former Union as the Caucasus and Transcaucasia. Chechnya's key position in this region warrants the supposition that, if Moscow finally loses control over this territory, it will become a platform for more extremist forces.

It could be objected that for three years now Russia's jurisdiction over Chechnya has been of a purely formal character. Whether it is necessary to ensure sovereignty and how to do so are nevertheless different questions. I agree that Russia's approach to the Dudayev regime—from persuasion to disregard—has not been distinguished by consistency. And the real task now is to determine a clear and well-defined course.

I by no means believe that this course should necessarily be linked to strong-arm actions, although I do not rule these out either. There are other means, apart from extreme ones, to demonstrate that Russia's laws extend to this republic. These include above all clear and definite support for forces which clearly and openly advocate the restoration of legality in Chechnya and its existence as part of the Russian Federation.

But not only this. Let us take, for example, the already tiresome complaints of the law-enforcement organs that criminals take refuge in Chechnya. As events involving the liberation of the kidnapped FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] officer showed, our special services have both the channels of information and the forces to find a man and deliver him to order even from Chechen territory. If there is the will.

Not without interest, furthermore, is the question: On what means does Chechnya, which has always lived on subsidies, survive today? If we are talking about funds derived from financial machinations, it is logical to determine who, in our country and abroad, is implicated in them, and in what Russian and foreign banks these funds are accumulating. If the story of oil trading is to be taken seriously, it would be interesting to know who is circumventing Russian laws to purchase this oil. And having determined this, to undertake the appropriate actions.

Today it should be clear that the crisis involving Chechnya by no means arose because of Moscow's refusal to grant it independence. It arose because Russia did not fight to assert its sovereignty over this territory with sufficient consistency.

Grachev Visits Bases Near Nizhniy Novgorod

MM1409103794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Maryukha and Aleksandr Pelts: "Russian Federation Defense Minister in Nizhniy Novgorod"]

[Text] Day two of the working visit by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, to the units and subunits of Moscow Military District began with a visit to camps near Nizhniy Novgorod. Two military combined units—the artillery division commanded by Colonel Vyacheslav Roshchin and the guards tank division commanded by Guards Major General Nikolay Senshov—arrived here this spring. Unlike the units inspected by the defense minister near Yelnya in the Smolensk area, the situation here is quite different. The units were withdrawn to previously prepared camps which, under existing accords, had been built by German, Finnish, and Turkish workers. All that was necessary was to provide housing for more than 2,000 men. Currently—and this was particularly emphasized by the minister—the problem has been virtually resolved. It is planned to complete construction here by the end of October. During his visit to the camp the defense minister toured servicmen's apartments, noting the high quality of the work—people can move into the apartments without practically any of the repairs that are usually necessary in such cases. Those who have to live and work here have had good things to say about the new camps.

The visit to the camp was not restricted to just the accommodations. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev devoted particular attention to the safekeeping and care of military hardware, which, as a result of the current situation, is being stored in open fields. In this connection, he stressed the need for the most stringent observance of all norms and regulations, security measures, and measures for ensuring the safekeeping of weapons and military hardware.

After familiarizing himself with the tank and artillery divisions, Pavel Grachev met with officers from these combined units. In the course of the conversation he noted the good cooperation with the local authorities and the particular role played by oblast Governor Boris

Nemtsov in making provision for the troops that have been withdrawn. The defense minister recalled yet again that no more military units will be sent to the Moscow Military District. "The image of the Moscow Military District that we outlined before has been created," he stressed. "The main task now is to provide facilities and organize combat training."

The defense minister took the opportunity to assess the tragic events involving the Russian officers in Georgia. He stressed that the killing of the two servicemen will not go unpunished and that the toughest sanctions would be taken.

In the afternoon Army Gen. Pavel Grachev arrived in Nizhniy Novgorod, where, accompanied by the oblast governor, he visited the "Armaments. Military Hardware. Conversion" exhibition. The working tour of Moscow Military District units and garrisons is continuing.

Chelyabinsk Radiation Leak 'Presented No Danger'

MM1409125594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by Yelena Obydena, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[Text] [Obydena] On Wednesday [7 September] the Gosatomnadzor [Federal Inspectorate for Nuclear and Radiation Safety] commission completed its investigation into the accident at the Mayak combine. The commission's conclusion is that the radiation incident presented no danger to Chelyabinsk Oblast. The leak of radioactive substances lasted just a few minutes. Then the power was cut off. Consequently the discharge of radionuclides into the atmosphere was kept down to 4.36 percent of the maximum permissible level. According to the commission's findings, there was no contamination of the surfaces or air inside the production premises or irradiation of the combine's personnel. So, it all ended relatively well. The radiation dose received by the population of Chelyabinsk and the surrounding area does not exceed the normal level. However, the incident could have been avoided entirely if the feed to the power plant had been switched off promptly. But, as the saying goes, all's well that ends well. Today all the shops at the Mayak combine are continuing to work normally, apart from the section which has been closed down. Work can only resume there after the defects discovered by the commission have been cleared up and a special decision to that effect has been made by the Russian Gosatomnadzor.

Nizhniy Novgorod's New Rules for Stay

MM1509132194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Dolgodvorov: "No One Wants Bums"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—"With a view to protecting citizens' rights and interests" the local legislative assembly has adopted a decree on the procedure enabling persons permanently resident outside Russia to stay on the territory of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast. Henceforth they will be obliged to register at their place of temporary residence, for which they will have to pay a levy at the rate of one-tenth of the minimum monthly labor remuneration and one-twentieth of this remuneration for each day's stay in the oblast. These funds will be used mainly to evict those who are refused registration and who violate public order or residence conditions. Such persons will first be taken to a reception and distribution center and then, if they do not have the funds, they will be handed a free ticket and sent to their last place of registration.

Material liability (up to 10 times the minimum wage) is envisaged for officials and apartment owners who break the rules.

These measures have been occasioned by the constant increase in the number of citizens of foreign states in the oblast—above all, from the southern republics of the near abroad—who are complicating the already extremely grave crime situation in the region.

Large Arms Cache Confiscated in North Ossetia

LD1509225394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2100 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS— A large cache of arms and ammunition was found and confiscated by law enforcement bodies working under the North Ossetian provisional administration. The arms were found in the Pravoberezhnyy district's Stary Bataksyurt village.

Military sources in the provisional administration told ITAR-TASS that during an operation conducted by an operational-investigative group and military group of the Russian Interior Ministry, they confiscated two "Alazan" rocket-launchers with four rockets, an anti-aircraft gun with ammunition, 18 anti-tank rockets, four submachine-guns, three machine-guns, 76 pistols, 303 handgrenades, 203 shells and over 180 thousand cartridges of different calibres. It is still uncertain whom these arms belonged to.

Drought Causes Water Supply Problems in Sochi

MM1509112594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Igor Chernov under the "It Is Hard To Vacation in Resorts Now" rubric: "Sochi Without Water"]

[Text] Sochi—The velvet season in Sochi has been clouded by a lengthy drought. People here cannot remember the last time it rained in the resort. Rivers have dried up, with the result that the water level in the city's water supply wells has dropped sharply.

A rigid schedule has been introduced in the city for the supply of water to residential districts and to places where sanatoriums are located. But many sanatoriums and guest houses are not getting any water at all.

The water shortage has entailed other problems: Bathhouses and kindergartens have closed, and the general sanitary state of the city has deteriorated.

The drought has canceled out all of Sochi's calculations with regard to the sanatoriums' 100-percent occupancy and good earnings in September. Naturally, vacationers are indignant: Pardon me, but there is not even anything to flush the toilets with! To stop people leaving en masse, the managers of sanatoriums and guest houses are returning to vacationers part of the cost of travel passes and trying to organize the delivery of water in tank trucks. But this is of little help.

Incidentally, the lack of water in Sochi is nothing new. There has long been talk here of the old water supply's failure to meet the needs of the expanded resort. There is talk of an urgent need to construct a new water supply. But the matter has gotten no further than words.

Lipetsk Politicians Abandon Confrontation

MM0709154594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Sep 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko "specially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA" under the "Local Power" rubric: "How To Reconcile the 'Sides in Political Vendetta'"]

[Text] The echoes of the conflict in the Lipetsk Oblast executive organs reached the Russian President's Staff. The essence of that conflict was as follows: Vyacheslav Butakov, head of the Usmanskiy Rayon Administration, and Vasiliy Fedchenko, chairman of the Usmanskiy Rayon committee for the support of the Russian reforms, came under "fierce pressure" from the Oblast Administration for what they regarded as political motives.

It seems that people have begun to reassess the weaponry of the political struggle, which since the beginning of perestroyka has been augmented in the provinces by "public insults," "hunger strikes," and "mass rallies." Confrontational methods are increasingly often being rejected. Meanwhile, diplomatic methods of resolving problems are becoming increasingly attractive. The latest "call for a bloodless remedy" came from Mikhail Narolin, head of the Lipetsk Oblast Administration, and his political adversary Vyacheslav Butakov, head of the Usmanskiy Rayon Admministration.

The bloodthirsty public saw some highly promising long-term possibilities in the confrontation between these leaders, one of whom, according to newspapers of an extreme tendency, features on the "nomenklatura" list while the other is described as a "product of the post-August wave." If they were really lucky they might be enjoying the spectacle of the two men slugging it out as early as this fall or winter. It was worth the gamble, at any rate, because according to past logic those men could not enter into a civic union.

Prior to his election as head of the Lipetsk Oblast Administration Mikhail Narolin himself was persecuted mercilessly. After August 1991, as former first deputy chairman of the oblast soviet executive committee, he was treated to all the delights that officialdom's "love" has to offer. They took away his means of communication and sealed his office.

The court reinstated him. But before the elections the opposition dared to take an unprecedented step to try to discredit the candidate: An oblast newspaper printed secretly obtained extracts from Narolin's medical record: We are not saying anything about his intellect or production abilities but we are sorry to say that he suffers from low blood pressure.

Vyacheslav Butakov was appointed to the post of head of the Usmanskiy Rayon administration by Narolin's persecutor, a former senior lecturer at the local polytechnical institute who led the oblast for a while after August 1991. After Narolin's election as governor, however, that was enough to cause a repetition of his post-August path. An eye for an eye. Such are the eternal rules of officials' games.

And at first that was precisely how events developed. First there was Butakov's removal from office, then it was off to court, then the burning down of the garage where he kept the car which he used to go to Lipetsk to make his complaints. Then reinstatement by decision of the court. Then another comprehensive check on of the state of affairs in the rayon. Not only in Usmanskiy Rayon, of course.

But it was in Usman that the head of the administration's chair began to rock again. Without waiting for organizational conclusions to be drawn, Butakov appealed to Sergey Filatov, leader of the President's Staff, for help. The local committee of support for the Russian reforms expressed a readiness to mobilize its ranks in defense of the out-of-favor leader. Meanwhile the other side was preparing its evidence. And it would have produced it. In a situation like this it only needs a stroke of the pen to cause an explosion between the opposing sides.

But there was no explosion. Mikhail Narolin invited Vyacheslav Butakov to come to his office and, in your correspondent's presence, stated that, contrary to rumors, he had no intention of firing him but did intend to hold him strictly accountable for his work in the future. Vyacheslav Butakov said that he was prepared to forget his grievances. As for the arson attacks and the thuggish assaults on the democrats, he would investigate that himself. Then the discussion turned to professional matters: progress in harvesting, privatization, and the preparation of schools for winter.

The reader is entitled to ask: What brought these people, so different in their experience of life, political baggage, and temperament, together? Their teams really did their job well. They organized, they prompted. People were waiting for the show but the curtain did not rise. Why? The key to this story, especially in its final stage, was the cause [delo]. There are grounds for thinking that this is what brought out the two sides' sense of self-preservation. This was not the first time in Lipetsk Oblast that the "sides in a political vendetta" have been united by their work.

Just look at the Novolipetskiy Metallurgical Combine, which in market conditions managed to maintain its production quality and retain its labor collective. It is a long time now since they stopped noticing the color of people's uniforms. They shun all kinds of "isms" like the plague. "We don't give a damn about them," a blast furnace operator friend of mine said. "Just so long as we have work."

The reliance on professionals, people capable of withstanding the ravages of inflation, is typical of other relatively prosperous enterprises in the region too. In principle this is what determines their prosperity.

This turnabout did not happen overnight. Indeed, by no means everyone is moving consciously in that direction. But the seed has been sown. And it will grow and grow as the economy becomes more stable. This is a different and better phase of society. Its boundaries are uncertain at the moment. But there is plenty of evidence that the lead detachment is already over the "first hurdle."

The representatives of the oblast branch of the Agrarian Party of Russia, for example, could not "rouse" the peasants to mass antigovernment and antipresident demonstrations at harvest time. Even though the most inflammatory slogans—about umpteen months with no pay and the crippling correlation of prices—were put forward. However, people can see in the fields that their labors have produced an excellent harvest. The grain has to be harvested. They consulted and decided: Part of the pay must be given in grain and young livestock. Is that feasible? Of course. That way you get what you earn.

"That was the best decision to make at this busy time," Oleg Korolev, chairman of the Oblast Assembly of Deputies, said.

Let us note here that Oleg Korolev is a former first secretary of the CPSU rural rayon committee and a "real communist," as his party comrades publicly described him after August 1991. Should he not support the Agrarians? Especially since it is well known that this party contains quite a few former CPSU party organizers and rural officials. But he did not support them. Furthermore, he did everything he could to ensure a calm political atmosphere in the countryside.

By an irony of fate Oleg Korolev also replaced a senior lecturer of the polytechnical institute as chairman of the oblast soviet, a man who, like the former head of the administration, was not a member of the new representative organ. I do not mean to imply that all senior lecturers are incapable of running the state. Whatever else, at oblast level they are better at it than cooks. But they did not survive. Times have changed. It is time to do things professionally.

One final point. It is well known that the king depends on his retinue. Yet it is the kings who pick the retinue. In our case they proved superior to their own entourage. But even that is not the problem. Glory to him who is first to understand the needs of the day.

Saratov Authorities Smash Crime Group

MM1509101294 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Bedula: "Dealers in Conscience and Honor"]

[Text] Saratov—The regional administration for combating organized crime has smashed a six-man criminal group which illegally sold weapons, ammunition, and explosives throughout 1993-1994.

It comprised a militiaman from Saratov's Oktyabrskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department's Nondepartmental Security Department, a former operational agent, a staffer from the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] college, and other people with close links to law enforcement. More than 10 grenades, several types of assault rifle and pistol, around 6,000 cartridges, three bulletproof vests, and large sums of money, including more than $2,000 and gold, were confiscated from the criminals.

Icebreakers Open Northern Sea Lanes

MM1309102194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Time To Ram the Ice"]

[Text] The ice-reinforced ocean-going cargo ship Vitus Bering loaded up yesterday in the Nakhodnka maritime trading port. This vessel is to be the first to inaugurate arctic navigation, in the course of which more than 30,000 tons of various freight concentrated in two Maritime Kray harbors—Vladivostok and Nakhodka—will be delivered to northerners.

As well as the Vitus Bering, two further ice-reinforced ships—Amderm and Vladimir Arsenev—will take part in arctic navigation.

It is no accident that the sturdiest cargo ships are being sent on the northern sea-lanes. According to a report from the Far Eastern Steamship Company Press Center, there is not a single mile of pure water between the Cape of Dezhnev and Pevek. The entire area is packed with ice built up over many years; three of the shipping company's tankers have already been trapped in it.

Now the icebreakers Admiral Makarov and Ivan Moskvitin are cutting a path through the ice for ships working in the eastern sector of the Arctic. The nuclear-powered ice-breaker Rossiya has been sent to assist them from Murmansk.

International Affairs

Kiev on Verge of Meeting IMF Conditions

MM1609111094 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 16 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Matthew Kaminski: "Kiev Ministers Poised to Clinch Deal with IMF"]

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine is on the verge of reaching its first agreement with the International Monetary Fund, a step which could unlock the $4bn (2.5bn pounds) in aid promised by the Group of Seven [G7] leading industrial nations, senior Ukrainian and western officials said this week.

Ukrainian cabinet ministers said they believed the country could reach a preliminary agreement with the IMF on an initial $700m loan to stabilize the economy by the end of the month. An agreement with the IMF would be the strongest signal so far that Ukraine, one of the weakest economies in the region, is about to attempt a radical economic transformation.

"We have a plan that will meet IMF conditions," said Mr Roman Shpek, the reform-minded economy minister who is spearheading Kiev's negotiations with the Fund. "There is now enough political will in Ukraine."

Western diplomats said Ukraine could reach the preliminary agreement with the Fund as soon as next Tuesday. Final approval would come at the IMF's summit in Madrid next month.

To meet IMF conditions Ukraine, which has one of the least reformed economies in the region, must liberalize prices, reform the currency, overhaul its restrictive taxation and trade policies and slash its budget deficit from its current high of 20 per cent of GDP to 10-12 per cent.

But if Kiev takes these difficult steps, the talks with the IMF and parallel negotiations with the World Bank to release a $400m rehabilitation loan could be the beginning of the first serious attempt to implement market reforms since Ukraine became independent nearly four years ago.

Some western politicians and economists, many of whom had dismissed Ukraine as an economic basket case, have begun to argue that if Ukraine chooses to reform it should be supported with substantial western assistance. The $4bn, pledged at the G7 summit in Naples in July, was the first concrete move in this direction.

"I just can't believe that the west would miss this chance," said Mr Jeffrey Sachs, the Harvard economist who advised Poland when it pioneered "shock therapy" reforms nearly five years ago. "You have a classic situation in Ukraine where you could have a very good program or the opportunity could be lost. But they need a push from President Clinton and Chancellor Kohl."

However, if President Leonid Kuchma's administration chooses to push for radical economic reforms it could face tough opposition from Ukraine's communist-dominated parliament, where MPs from the rust-belt in the east of the country have a powerful voice.

Although Mr Kuchma hcs already demonstrated a greater willingness to over-rule parliament by exercising the president's right to issue decrees, he is expected next Tuesday to ask the legislature to lift its moratorium on privatisation. Within the next few days his advisers say he will also present a comprehensive economic reform plan to the parliament.

Moreover, Prime Minister Vitalay Masol, an appointee of the previous president, has openly opposed reforms. But some western observers believe that Mr Kuchma, who has been quietly moving his own, more reformist, allies into the cabinet, may be trying to isolate and eventually sack Mr Masol.

These political uncertainties, and lingering doubts about Mr Kuchma's own commitment to reforms, have prompted some leading Ukrainian politicians to urge the west not to give aid to Ukraine until it acts on its reformist promises.

"Ukraine is like an alcoholic asking for a loan to buy more vodka," Mr Viktor Pynzenyk, one of the leading advocates of radical reforms in the parliament, said. Before giving Ukraine financial assistance, he warned senior World Bank officials at a meeting last week, they must be confident that the government had "kicked the state out of the economy".

Moroz Says IMF, World Bank Demands 'Unacceptable'

LD1509213594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Chairman of Ukrainian Parliament Oleksandr Moroz said that the demands of the IMF and the World Bank concerning a non-deficit budget and reducing expenditures on social needs "are unacceptable within the context of the present situation in Ukraine."

Moroz said at a meeting with a delegation of the Public Service International in Kiev today that he agrees with the demand of trade unions that the crisis must be overcome not at the expense of workers.

Moroz said he believes that Ukraine must economize funds given by the world community and create jobs rather than reduce them.

Moroz, Iranian Envoy Discuss Cooperation

AU1609102594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Unjustifiable Limitations"]

[Text] "The cooperation between Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Iran has great prospects. Our relations have, until now, been unjustifiably limited," stated chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council O. Moroz after a meeting with B. Mazaheri, Iran's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Ukraine. The chairman of the Ukrainian parliament believes that the [Near Eastern] region presents an interest for our state, primarily as a market for Ukrainian goods. As is known, Ukrainian agricultural products and machine building merchandise are in high demand in Near Eastern countries. Ukraine, in turn, is interested in Iranian petroleum products. The meeting, which was held within the framework of preparations for a working visit to Ukraine by the chairman of parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first half of November 1994, dealt with the need to establish a more constructive cooperation between the two countries.

Troops Join Partnership for Peace Exercise

LD1509195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1449 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] A Ukrainian unit is taking part in current joint military exercises in Poland forming part of NATO's Partnership for Peace scheme.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said the Ukrainian contingent had already carried out a simulated operation involving transportation of a group of refugees across a body of water and settling them in a special camp. Ukrainian troops also guarded an imitated humanitarian convoy, an operation which involved a simulated battle. Ukrainian soldiers guarding a command post detained three "trespassers."

The Ukrainian platoon forms part of a company which also includes Dutch, Romanian and British soldiers and is commanded by a British officer.

More than 900 soldiers and officers from 14 countries are participating in the exercises, held at a training ground near Poznan and covered by 500 journalists.

Government Not Ready To Join NPT Before End of Year

LD1509202194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine is not ready to join the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [NPT] before the end of this year, Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Defense and Security Commission Vladimir Mukhin said at a briefing in Moscow today.

Mukhin said that those countries which had signed the treaty should not be violating it themselves. He referred to importing "plutonium from a country participating in the treaty."

Mukhin said that in the near future, Ukrainian customs will be supplied with equipment which will make it impossible to transport nuclear materials via Ukrainian territory undetected.

Moroz Urges Conference on Nonproliferation

LD1509123794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The speaker of the Ukrainian parliament Oleksandr Moroz has called for an international conference to be held in Kiev at the beginning of next year to discuss the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

He said such a conference would help Ukraine decide "whether to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty." Moroz was speaking at a session of parliament in Kiev.

Earlier, President Kuchma had said he intended to present to parliament proposals concerning Ukraine's relationship to the treaty in October, 1994. The Treaty is in force until 1995.

Security Guarantees Requested From 'Nuclear Powers'

LD1509203994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine has applied to nuclear powers with a request to provide it with written security guarantees, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told journalists in Kiev today. He stressed that, however, this is not a condition for Ukraine joining the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

When asked about Ukraine's terms for joining the treaty, Udovenko said this will "depend on God's will and the parliament."

Commenting on the proposal of the Ukrainian parliament's Chairman Oleksandr Moroz to hold an international conference on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in Kiev in January, Udovenko said this proves the intention of the parliament to pursue an active policy on this issue and to have its word in foreign policy.

Doroshenko: Russian Treaty Would 'Beat' Separatists

LD1509174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Presidential Press Secretary Mikhail Doroshenko believes that the signing of a full-scale treaty of friendship and partnership with Russia would beat the cards of the most zealous separatists. He was speaking before journalists in Kiev.

The chief of the presidential advisers, Aleksandr Razumkov, has said that the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine is scheduled for the beginning of next month. National Security Council Secretary Vladimir Gorbulin has said there is every reason to expect the visit to take place on time.

The presidential staff believe that by the time of the visit Ukraine and Russia would be able to finalize the draft of a full-scale bilateral treaty.

The authorities in Kiev believe that the current situation in Crimea must be taken into account in drafting a final version of the treaty.

Parliamentary speaker Aleksandr Moroz is for the inclusion of the principle of the inviolability of borders in a future treaty with Russia. He also believes that the Ukrainian-Russian treaty of friendship and cooperation must be considered thoroughly in order to make a realistic decision, and not a declaration.

Meanwhile Ukrainian and Russian experts have compiled the list of the remaining basic differences concerning a future treaty. The chief of the legal affairs department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Aleksandr Chaliy has made it clear that the list of such issues included territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders and dual citizenship. Chaliy said at a briefing in Moscow that on the issue of territorial integrity an appropriate formula must be found that would "take into account our wishes and certain elements of Russia's position." Chaliy said that the third coordinating round of talks would be held at the end of this month or early next month. Chaliy said that final agreements were reached on the legal status of ethnic minorities, cooperation in space and transit problems. Chaliy said it would be possible to make the treaty ready for signature by the time of President Yeltsin's visit to Kiev.

Nationalists Set Up Committee To Help Chechnya

AU1609101494 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 13 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "We Will Help Chechnya"]

[Text] **At the initiative of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Committee for Assisting the Chechen Republic—Ichkeriya—has been created in Kiev.** Its tasks are to obtain and disseminate true information on the events in Chechnya, organize protest actions against Russian colonial policy and solidarity actions with the Chechen people, render humanitarian assistance to Chechnya, exchange delegations, and prepare public opinion for recognizing the Chechen Republic as an independent state by Ukraine.

Objectives at UN Session Outlined

LD1509165994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1115 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Kiev, 15 Sep—The UN General Assembly's 49th session opens in New York on 20 September. [Passage omitted] Our delegation will work to consolidate the positive image of the Ukrainian state and continue efforts to implement Ukraine's initiatives, such as on the draft convention on protection of UN peacekeeping personnel, the reduction of Ukraine's budget contribution, and the move to a different category of contributors to UN peacekeeping operations.

Ukraine owes the UN 192 million dollars. It must repay 12 million before the end of the year to avoid losing its vote. The UN Contributions Committee has approved a recommendation this year on the gradual reduction of Ukraine's contribution to 1.09 percent of the budget.

One of the issues to be raised by the Ukrainian delegation is compensation for the losses from sanctions ordered by the Security Council against Yugoslavia that have reached 4 billion dollars. Emphasis will be made on the need for international aid in the repatriation of Crimean Tatars. More attention will be drawn to the fact that Ukraine is the first country to eliminate nuclear weapons on its territory, planning to achieve a nuclear-free status in the future. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Envoy Dismissals

LD1509230394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1935 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The dismissal of Ukraine's ambassadors to the United States and Russia was done in order to ensure that we are never ashamed of our representatives in these countries, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said in an interview on Thursday [15 September].

"Complaints against our ambassadors in both countries were not uncommon," he said.

President Leonid Kuchma earlier in the week dismissed the Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Volodymyr Krzhanitskiy, and the Ambassador to the United States Oleg Bilorus. Udovenko avoided disclosing likely candidates for the posts.

Asked about the future of his predecessor Anatoliy Zlenko, Udovenko said that he would be actively employed in the diplomatic service.

National Affairs

Crimean Parliament Votes No Confidence

LD1509162194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Simferopol, 15 Sep—The Crimean Supreme Soviet has today carried a vote of no confidence in the republic's government. The legislature told Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov that he should demand his cabinet's resignation and that a resolution to this effect be submitted to the parliament within seven days.

The Supreme Soviet also expressed its nonconfidence in Viktor Minin, head of the State Affairs Service, and suggested that the head of state should dismiss him.

The Crimean Supreme Soviet session has adjourned until 21 September.

Saburov Addresses Supreme Council

LD1509135194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0940 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol—Addressing deputies of Crimea's Supreme Council today, Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Saburov noted that "he sees no possibility of working constructively as long as the current situation exists." He said he will remain at his post only "under certain conditions" but expressed doubt about whether these conditions will be accepted.

Although there is no official announcement on the government's resignation, Yevhen Saburov noted that "he is leaving the economy in a pretty good state for his successor, at a sufficiently high state of readiness for the winter, and with enormous prospects in industry."

Vitaliy Kyrychenko, acting head of Ukraine's main internal affairs directorate in Crimea; Ivan Kolomyystev, head of the main security service directorate in Crimea; and Valentyn Kuptsov, the procurator in the Republic of Crimea told deputies that the law enforcement bodies do not have information about the corruption which Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov accused deputies of.

Oleksiy Melnykov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, who is also deputy leader of the Republican Party of Crimea, told journalists that he apologizes to voters for Yuriy Meshkov's betrayal of the ideals of the Republican Party of Crimea and the Republican Movement of Crimea. In his view, "by his anticonstitutional actions, Meshkov has put the republic on the verge of extinction."

Cites Reasons for Resignation

LD1509211694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Our correspondent Elena Sandamirsksaya spoke to Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov by telephone this evening. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Saburov] I arrived here when there was a completely different constitution, law on the government, and on the status of the president. During the last two days everything has been completely changed. I simply refuse to work in this kind of atmosphere since I am an economist not a psychologist.

[Sandamirsksaya] It was Meshkov who invited you to take up the position of deputy prime minister. The conflict between him and the Supreme Council occurred because he was defending his government, that is you. To abandon the president in such a situation means that he is now left on his own to face the Supreme Council. He probably could do with support from you in this situation?

[Saburov] The conflict between Meshkov and the Supreme Council is not connected with the so-called Moscow Government. The conflict is between Meshkov and the Supreme Council in which the government has found itself in rather a strange situation. Naturally, we have always supported Meshkov, but the attacks by the Supreme Council were aimed from the very beginning against the president. I have been closely following the development of the conflict and have repeatedly stated that I was ready to resign as soon as possible. But not because I have become a stumbling block. On the contrary, it is simply impossible to work in such circumstances.

[Sandamirsksaya] What do you now intend to do?

[Saburov] During the whole period of my stay in Crimea I have maybe bathed in the sea only five times, although the temperature of the water is wonderful: 23 degrees.

[Sandamirsksaya] Do you intend to return to Moscow?

[Saburov] Of course, very soon. [end recording]

Meshkov Determined To Defend Government

LD1509123294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1048 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov is determined to defend the government led by Yevgeniy Saburov, most of whose members, including Saburov himself, come from Moscow.

Meshkov told Interfax in an exclusive interview on Thursday that the resignation of the government would deliver a powerful blow to the Crimean economy and its economic interests.

He believes that the Saburov government is opposed by forces which would like to establish their own control over the Crimean economy.

"Although the government has just begun working, the objective results confirm that it is a success," he said. "Moreover, its contacts with Russia, in terms of personal relations and opportunities, are making it superior to any other possible candidates. Given this, the government must be preserved by all means," he said.

He confirmed that he agreed with the zero option, proposed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma for settling the crisis in Crimea. He also expressed hope that the arrival in Crimea of the Ukrainian president's special envoy Yevgeniy Marchuk on September 15, will facilitate the settlement of the conflict.

Sources close to Meshkov do not rule out the possibility of the government's resignation, taking into account parliament speaker Sergey Tsekov's negative attitude to it.

Crimean Parliament Blamed for Death of Statehood

LD1509182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said that the activities of the Crimean parliament "destroy the statehood of the republic."

Meshkov said in an exclusive interview with Interfax today that he had repeatedly warned the parliament that if it did not cease its activities which were destroying statehood, it must bear all responsibility for possible consequences.

Meshkov said that there are objective interests and objective laws for national economic development whose violation increases the price "we will pay in the process of meeting objective demands for building up both the economy and the state."

Meshkov also announced that he had maintained constant contacts with the Ukrainian president, keeping him informed of events as they unfolded.

Meshkov said he had sent a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin during the first days of the crisis.

Meshkov informed Yeltsin on developments in Crimea. Meshkov added that he realizes how these events influence the situation in Ukraine and, to a certain extent, in Russia. Meshkov assured Yeltsin that he will refrain from actions which would "violate the balance in Crimea."

Ukrainian Lawmakers To Examine Situation in Crimea

LD1509161494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1532 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnikov]

[Text] Kiev September 15 TASS—Only after thoroughly examining the situation on Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, as well as speaking to local residents, will the Ukrainian Parliament make a decision on the constitutional crisis in the autonomous republic.

With this in view, Ukrainian lawmakers at today's session set up a parliamentary group of 14 people, which is to leave for the Crimea on Friday [16 September].

According to parliament speaker Oleksandr Moroz, the deputies are scheduled to meet Crimean leaders, lawmakers, deputies of local councils and labour collectives.

Parliament Confirms Udovenko as Foreign Minister

LD1509202894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Hennadiy Udovenko was approved as Ukraine's Foreign Minister by parliament on Thursday. Earlier he was appointed acting Foreign Minister by Leonid Kuchma.

Udovenko was approved by 284 votes, with 22 votes cast against and 14 abstentions.

In his address to parliament Udovenko said Russia was a very important factor in shaping Ukrainian foreign policy. He said that future European security depended largely on Ukrainian-Russian relations. Udovenko voiced the hope that neither Ukraine, nor Russia had the intention of abusing the existing treaties between them.

Udovenko pointed to the need for stronger relations with other former Soviet republics and for stepping up diplomatic activity in relations with Western countries. He said that activity must in the first place manifest itself in relations "with those countries that are ready to meet us half-way—the United States, Germany, Canada and others."

Asked about his attitude to the idea of restoration of the USSR and Ukraine's attitude to various forms of Slavic unions, Udovenko said that Ukraine's foreign policy complied with the will of the Ukrainian people expressed in the December 1, 1991 referendum. On that day a majority of the Ukrainian citizens voted for independence.

"If there are other proposals, the people must be asked to decide," Udovenko said.

He said that Ukrainian negotiators were holding active talks with Russia on a full-scale bilateral treaty and that in drafting such a treaty the Ukrainian delegation relied on the principle of Ukraine's territorial integrity. Udovenko avoided disclosing any details of the negotiations with Russia. He confined himself to saying that a "normal negotiating process was underway."

He spoke highly of the Russian leadership's policy regarding the latest developments in Crimea. "The Russian leaders have supported us on the Crimean situation," Udovenko said.

Security Council Head on Reasons for Crimean Crisis

LD1509231594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] One of the main reasons behind the conflict between the legislative and executive authorities in Crimea is their inability to fulfill their election promises. This is the opinion of Volodymyr Horbulin, the secretary of the National Security Council under the president of Ukraine.

At a news conference in Kiev he said that the population of Crimea failed to receive the benefits that were promised to it so generously. According to Volodymyr Horbulin, the sharp aggravation of the economic and social situation on this Black Sea peninsula was cutting the ground from under the authorities' feet. This exactly led to the conflict between the authorities, he believes. The second reason, in his opinion, is the difference of views on privatization.

Supreme Council Admits 60 Deputies

LD1509163694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1115 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—The Supreme Council's Interim Mandate Commission today proposed examining a resolution on recognizing deputies' mandates of 57 newly elected deputies. With regard to three of them, Oleksandr Yemets, (Galitskiy constituency No. 260, Lvov Oblast), Yuliy Yoffe (Rubezhanskiy Constituency No. 248, Lugansk Oblast), and Hennadiy Vasylyev (Kalininskiy Constituency No. 109, Donetsk Oblast), in the words of Commission Chairman Andriy Snihach, the commission did not reach agreement and proposed not to discuss this issue for the time being.

After a proposal by Oleksandr Moroz, a decision on confirming the authorities of all 60 people's deputies, in accordance with a decision of the Central Electoral Commission, was put to the vote. One hundred and ninety three deputies voted in favor and 69 against.

It was announced that although deputies had to leave their previous employment by 15 September [date as received], by today 227 had done this and 95 had not determined their position. It is likely that next week the issue of the Supreme Council working on a professional basis will be included on the agenda.

Simferopol Papers Report on Crimean Situation

Moroz Comments

944K2324A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[UKRINFORM report: "Oleksandr Moroz on the Situation in Crimea"]

[Text] "Both branches of power—both the Supreme Council and the president of the autonomous republic—are to blame for the current situation in Crimea," Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, believes. In an interview granted to an UKRINFORM correspondent on 12 September he declared that "if we wish to struggle for constitutional authority, for democracy, this should be done by democratic and legal methods." "No one has the right to violate the current Constitution and other laws of Ukraine," the head of parliament emphasized.

He observed here that both the Supreme Council and the president of the Republic of Crimea had been guilty of this as of late. But Yuriy Meshkov, Oleksandr Moroz believes, has exceeded his authority considerably and is in conflict not only with Ukrainian but also Crimean legislation. "The first step back should be taken by Yuriy Meshkov," the speaker said. "In turn, the Supreme Council of Crimea also is required to thoroughly analyze the decisions that it has adopted and to bring them into line with the Constitution of Ukraine, there is no other way," Oleksandr Moroz observed. In his opinion, the world community expects precisely such actions. A balanced position on the Crimean problem is occupied by Russia also. As the head of parliament put it, it regards the development of this situation as a problem of an independent neighboring state—Ukraine. From the viewpoint of the chairman of the Supreme Council, this is the correct position.

Oleksandr Moroz believes that the situation in Crimea will return to normal in the very near future. In his opinion, it is essential first and foremost to bring all legislative instruments of the Republic of Crimea into line with the Constitution of Ukraine.

Supreme Council Presidium on Crimea

944K2324B Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Statement of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine"]

[Text] The conflict that has arisen as of late between the president of the Republic of Crimea and the Supreme Council of Crimea is causing profound concern.

The edicts of the president of the Republic of Crimea on a suspension of the activity of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the district, city, and city district councils of people's deputies and a number of other edicts aimed at a change in the organization of state power in the republic are an outright violation of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine and the Constitution and laws of the autonomous Republic of Crimea.

In accordance with legislation of Ukraine, the Supreme Council of Ukraine has the exclusive right to terminate early the authority of the Supreme Council of Crimea and local councils of people's deputies. The Constitution of the Republic of Crimea makes no provision for and the law on the president of the Republic of Crimea directly prohibits the president of the Republic of Crimea from suspending the activity of the Supreme Council of Crimea or dissolving it.

The above edicts cannot be classed as anything other than an attempt to usurp power and to eliminate in the autonomous Republic of Crimea the democratic principles of the composition of power in Ukraine.

The recurrent violations by the Supreme Council and the president of the Republic of Crimea of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine have contributed to the development of the conflict.

The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine proceeds from the fact that the contradictions between the legislators and the executive authorities must be resolved within the framework of the Constitution and current laws and considers any departure from this principle impermissible. In this connection the Presidium insists that the president of the Republic of Crimea reverse his illegal decisions.

The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine confirms also the demands of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on the Supreme Council of Crimea concerning a reconsideration of its decisions that do not conform to the Constitution and laws of Ukraine and recommends that it increase its influence on the executive and make fuller use of local personnel potential.

We are convinced that the Supreme Council of Ukraine will support the specific measures of the president of Ukraine as a guarantor of the observance of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine and its sovereignty and territorial integrity aimed at the assurance of legality and law and order on the territory of the autonomous Republic of Crimea.

We deem it necessary that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine provide for closer interaction with the Government of the Republic of Crimea in its solution of questions of the socioeconomic life of the autonomous Republic of Crimea.

We express the hope that in the present situation the local councils of people's deputies in the autonomous Republic of Crimea and their executive committees, realizing their constitutional authority, will concentrate their attention on a resolution of urgent socioeconomic problems and we call on the population of the Republic of Crimea for discretion and calm.

Crimean Legislators Appeal for Calm

944K2324C Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Appeal of the Supreme Council of Crimea Presidium to the Citizens of the Republic of Crimea"]

[Text] On 11 September 1994 Yu.A. Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, mounted actions geared to the perpetration of an anticonstitutional coup d'etat expressed in the dissolution of the Supreme Council and local councils of the republic.

The president's actions do not conform to the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea or current legislation and are aimed at the liquidation of the statehood of Crimea.

The Supreme Council of Crimea Presidium demands that all leaders of local councils, officials, and officers of the law enforcement authorities observe the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea and current legislation and refuse to comply with the illegal directives of President Yu.A. Meshkov.

That the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Crimea adopt immediately, in accordance with the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea, measures to forestall the actions of the unlawful armed formation—the President's Service for Security and Interstate Relations.

We appeal to the citizens of the Republic of Crimea to show restraint and remain calm.

Legality and constitutional order on the territory of the republic will be restored.

Tsekov Appeals to Crimean Citizens

944K2324D Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Appeal of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea to the Citizens of the Republic of Crimea"]

[Text] Esteemed Crimeans, Fellow Citizens!

The events of recent days in our republic have complicated the overall situation considerably. Yu.A. Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, who prior to this also had frequently issued edicts and directives in violation of the Constitution of the republic, which the Supreme Council had subsequently to discuss and reverse, this morning, flagrantly flouting the basic law of the republic, attempted to abolish the Supreme Council and the entire system of representative authorities from the top down. His edict proposes the elimination of the councils of all levels and the cancellation of the current Constitution, and the president assumes the fullness of power not only at the executive but also at the legislative level. Subsequently Meshkov thinks to begin the elaboration of a new Constitution, for which he assigns seven months, and only then to think about elections.

When the unprejudiced person familiarizes himself with the set of documents issued by Meshkov, there involuntarily arises the thought: Have I not been dreaming all this? The present economic situation in Crimea dictates different concerns: The preparations for winter are ineffective, the vast majority of industry is at a standstill, agriculture has taken a knockout blow from the drought, and unemployment is growing at an unpredictable pace. Everyone, having rolled up his sleeves, needs to tackle what is most important: to decide what the life of the republic is going to be henceforward. And at this moment the president is wrecking what was still at least operating in some fashion.

The moment chosen for the anticonstitutional coup was not fortuitous. Next week parliament had scheduled a government account of the preparations for winter. There is practically nothing of which to render account, and the broadcast of the course of the hearings to the entire republic would finally have opened Crimeans' eyes to the real result of the president's and the vice premier's trips and promises. Events were accelerated also by the fact that a decision of the Supreme Council Presidium a week ago eliminated the president's security service, which numbered approximately 100 persons and whose funding came from taxpayer monies concentrated in illegal off-budget funds. The procuracy had been instructed to investigate this situation, and the president decided, most likely, not to wait for the results.

Yu.A. Meshkov had long been heading for this finale. The seven and one-half months of the presidency have shown Crimeans the unusual generosity of this politician when it comes to promises and the highly modest results of his actual work. He has practically renounced all his campaign commitments and he has today attempted to liquidate the Constitution of 6 May, whose revival he had, while seeking the presidency, promised Crimeans.

The forces dictating Meshkov's actions are interested in obtaining the right to dispose of the property of the republic if only for six months in order to administer it at their own discretion. It is with good reason that this timeframe fits perfectly well into the time category appointed by Meshkov: formulation of the Constitution up to 7 April, then preparation for the elections, and when the new parliament assumes power, 10-11 months later, the property will have been precisely divided up, as in the fairy tale, into the worthless tops and the valuable tubers.

Parliament has set and continues to set as its principal mission the strictest compliance with the law. It will in the coming hours, therefore, adopt decisions suppressing the insane attempt to unleash lawlessness.

We call on the councils of all levels to convene in session as soon as possible and make an evaluation of the actions of the adventurers that are bent on making Crimea another flash point.

The Supreme Council informs Crimeans that the handful of persons headed by several bankrupt politicians, having captured the Supreme Council building by deception, exert at this moment political influence only on territory confined to the corridors of this building.

And this situation will not last long.

Legality will triumph.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea

Kuchma Warns Meshkov, Tsekov Against Force

944K2325A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by the Press Office of the President of Ukraine-UKRINFORM: "Announcement of the Press Office of the President of Ukraine"]

[Text] On 12 September a meeting was held between Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, and a group of people's deputies and also a discussion with Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea. Their main purpose was to find a compromise way out of the current situation in Crimea.

The president of Ukraine warned Yuriy Meshkov and Sergey Tsekov that he would not permit the use of force for a resolution of the contradictions between the branches of power in Crimea and of their personal responsibility for the possible consequences of such actions. The attention of the leaders of Crimea was called to the fact that the separation of authority between the highest organs of state power should not assume such menacing forms.

It was proposed that both the president and the deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea suspend all decisions concerning the institution of the presidency and the Supreme Council of Crimea and also other legislative instruments destabilizing the situation. And create a joint conciliation commission that, with the participation of a special representative of the president of Ukraine, would draw up proposals for a settlement of the conflict by the constitutional path.

Supreme Council Decree on Meshkov Edicts

944K2325B Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea: On the Edicts of the President of the Republic of Crimea 'On a Referendum on a Draft Constitution of the Republic of Crimea,' 'On Preparation of a Draft New Constitution of the Republic of Crimea,' 'On Procedure of Application of the Current Constitution of the Republic of Crimea in the Period of Preparation and Realization of a Referendum on the Draft New Constitution,' and 'On Elections to a Legislative Assembly and Organs of Local Government of the Republic of Crimea'"]

[Text] Having issued edicts on the preparation of a draft new Constitution, the application of the current Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, and the holding of a referendum and elections to a legislative assembly, the president of the Republic of Crimea has exceeded his authority and flagrantly violated the current Constitution and laws of the Republic of Crimea.

In accordance with Article III of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, the adoption of a constitution of the republic and the organization and procedure of realization of elections and referenda are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

The president has arrogated to himself the functions of the legislature and is in violation of Articles 2 and 5 of the Constitution of the republic, which record that actions violating the conditions of the separation of powers are impermissible and are deemed anticonstitutional. These actions are a usurpation of power and represent an encroachment on the democracy and sovereignty of the people.

The above-mentioned edicts are not legally valid, therefore.

On the basis of Articles 2, 4, 5, 102, 104, 110, 111, and 125 of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees that:

1. The edicts of the president of the Republic of Crimea "On a Referendum on a Draft Constitution of the

Republic of Crimea," "On Preparation of a Draft New Constitution of the Republic of Crimea," "On Procedure of the Application of the Current Constitution of the Republic of Crimea in the Period of the Preparation and Realization of a Referendum on the Draft New Constitution," and "On Elections to a Legislative Assembly and Organs of Local Government of the Republic of Crimea" are anticonstitutional, have no legal force, and are not subject to execution by state authorities, officials, enterprises, institutions, or organizations, associations of citizens, or individual citizens of the Republic of Crimea.

2. It will apply to the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea for findings on the constitutionality of these edicts of the president of the Republic of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea

City of Simferopol

11 September 1994

Supreme Council Decree on Referendum Edict

944K2325C Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea: On the Edict of the President of the Republic of Crimea 'On Organization of State Administration in the Republic of Crimea in the Period of the Preparation and Realization of a Referendum on a Draft Constitution of the Republic of Crimea'"]

[Text] On 11 September 1994 the president of the Republic of Crimea proclaimed the edict "On Organization of State Administration in the Republic of Crimea in the Period of the Preparation and Realization of a Referendum on a Draft Constitution of the Republic of Crimea," which suspended on the territory of the Republic of Crimea the activity of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea and the district, city, and city district councils and annulled the mandates of the deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the district, city, and city district councils. Prior to the adoption of the new Constitution, the powers of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the district, city, and city district councils are transferred to the president of the Republic of Crimea and the chairmen of the district, city, and city district executive committees respectively.

This edict was issued in flagrant violation of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Crimea.

By virtue of Articles 2, 4, and 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, actions violating the conditions of the separation of powers are deemed anticonstitutional, and laws and official enactments adopted in violation of the Constitution have no legal force.

The transfer of the powers of the Supreme Council and the district, city, and city district councils to the president and the organs of executive power locally is not permitted and is anticonstitutional.

Article 5 of the law of the Republic of Crimea [as published] contains a direct ban on the president of the Republic of Crimea dissolving or suspending the activity of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

On the basis of Articles 2, 4, 5, 106, 108, 110, 111, and 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea and Article 5 of the Law of the Republic of Crimea "On the President of the Republic of Crimea" the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees that:

1. The edict of the President of the Republic of Crimea "On Organization of State Administration in the Republic of Crimea in the Period of the Preparation and Realization of a Referendum on a Draft Constitution of the Republic of Crimea" of 11 September 1994 is anticonstitutional, has no legal force, and is not subject to execution by state authorities, officials, enterprises, institutions, or organizations, associations of any form of ownership, or citizens of the Republic of Crimea.

2. In connection with the violation by the president of the Republic of Crimea of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Crimea it will apply to the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Crimea for findings on the constitutionality of the edicts and directives issued by the president of the Republic of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea

City of Simferopol

11 September 1994

Supreme Council Decree on Maintaining Order

944K2325D Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea: On Maintaining Legality and Law and Order in the Republic of Crimea"]

[Text] On 11 September 1994 Yu.A. Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, issued a number of edicts whose realization signifies an anticonstitutional coup d'etat.

In execution of these illegal edicts officers of the security service of the president of the Republic of Crimea, among whom are employees of the internal affairs authorities of Crimea, are barring the entry of deputies and employees of the secretariat to the Supreme Council of Crimea building.

Employees of the security service and the Office of the President have taken control of the television and radio of Crimea and are preventing representatives of the Supreme Council going on the air.

On 11 September 1994 V.M. Kuptsov, prosecutor of the Republic of Crimea, sent V.N. Kirichenko, acting chief of the Main Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in the Republic of Crimea, an order, according to which the internal affairs authorities were required throughout the day of 11 September to adopt measures to ensure the unimpeded access of deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea to the Supreme Council building.

On the basis of what has been said the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees that:

1. It will demand that the leadership of the internal affairs authorities of the Republic of Crimea ensure unswerving observance of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea and current legislation on the territory of the republic and the immediate access of the deputies and employees of the secretariat to the Supreme Council building, and of deputies of the local councils, to their administrative buildings, provide security at communications facilities, television, radio broadcasting, publishing, and the printing works, and ensure the normal operation of the news media.

2. Representatives of the local councils of people's deputies shall within three days' time conduct sessions of the councils to discuss the current situation.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea

City of Simferopol

11 September 1994

Supreme Council Decree on Meshkov Appeal

944K2325E Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea: On the Appeal of the President of the Republic of Crimea"]

[Text] Having examined the appeal of the president of the Republic of Crimea, the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees that:

It will agree to begin negotiations with the president of the Republic of Crimea on an end to the constitutional crisis, provided that the president of the Republic of Crimea cancel the unlawful edict suspending the activity of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the local councils of people's deputies and other edicts conflicting with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Crimea.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea

12 September 1994

Decree on Guarantee of Deputies' Rights

944K2325F Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

["Decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea: "On Assurance of the Legitimate Rights of Deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea"]

[Text] The Supreme Council of Crimea decrees that:

1. It requires the prosecutor of the Republic of Crimea (V.M. Kuptsov) and the acting minister of internal affairs of Crimea (V.N. Kirichenko) to ensure the access of deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea prior to 1400 on 12 September 1994 to radio, television, and the Supreme Council of Crimea building.

2. In the event of noncompliance with clause 1 of this decree, the deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea shall head for the said facilities.

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea

12 September 1994

Report on Crimean Parliamentary Session

944K2326A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by O. Kulakovskaya: "First Session of the Supreme Council of Crimea: Back to Square One"]

[Text] **As though nothing had happened. Neither the insane tension nor the alarms of recent days nor the two sleepless nights for many deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea. Everything, it would seem, is back to square one, and yesterday's plenary session of the Supreme Council of Crimea opened in its own parliamentary meeting hall. But this impression was deceiving. Nothing is final as yet....**

The sitting was opened by Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, who determined entirely unequivocally that "finding no political or economic ways of surmounting the crisis and having become entangled in intrigues, officials heading the executive in the republic prepared and carried out an anticonstitutional coup." The speaker made a positive evaluation here of the actions under the current conditions of the internal affairs authorities and the security service and expressed particular gratitude for the adherence to principle displayed by Valentin Kuptsov, prosecutor of the Republic of Crimea, and the local authorities, which did not succumb to the provocations. He observed also that the difficult test had united the deputies, who are once again ready to continue responsible work on legislation. The Supreme Council was and will remain, S. Tsekov emphasized, a dependable guarantor of peace, tranquillity, and social accord and a custodian of the Constitution and legality on the territory of the Republic of Crimea.

Discussion of the situation that has taken shape in Crimea in connection with the events of 11-12 September 1994 was put on the agenda. In a brief report the speaker set forth the chronology of the well-known events and the decisions adopted in connection with them of the special session of the Supreme Council, which worked in the building of the republic procuracy.

S. Tsekov reported that at the time of his speech to the deputies he had not had a chance either to meet with President Yu. Meshkov or speak with him by telephone. Only in the morning had the way to the Supreme Council building been cleared and deputies acquired an opportunity for normal business.

Sergey Tsekov confirmed the existence of an appeal by Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, to the president and parliament of Ukraine and read it out to the deputies (it is published in this issue). As far as the response of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine is concerned, the extracts from the official documents quoted by the chairman of the parliament of Crimea speak for themselves: "...the said edicts of the president of Crimea cannot be classed as anything but an endeavor to usurp power and to eliminate in the autonomous republic the democratic principles of the composition of power in Ukraine."

The Presidium of the Supreme Council of Ukraine insists on the president of Crimea's cancellation of the illegal decisions. But this demand has had no effect as yet, although a decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea recognizes the said decisions to be legally invalid on the territory of the republic. In this connection the Presidium of the Supreme Court of Crimea, which is to render a legal opinion concerning the edicts in accordance with the law of the Republic of Crimea on the president, began its work yesterday.

Many deputies were excited by the possibility of the zero option that was proposed by, inter alia, Ukrainian President L. Kuchma in the course of his meeting with the deputies. To which Sergey Tsekov responded:

"The essence of the zero option is to return to the state in legislation of the Republic of Crimea that obtained on 7 September: a cancellation of the edicts of the president and the decisions adopted by the Supreme Council of Crimea since 7 September. It is said that an arrangement with the Supreme Council of Crimea on the zero option was made. This does not correspond to reality. Nowhere have I, as chairman of the Supreme Council, at any time either in telephone conversations or personally given my consent to the zero option. We reject this because the Supreme Council of Crimea violated neither the Constitution nor the laws of the Republic of Crimea by the decisions that were adopted at the plenary sittings on 7 and 8 September. The president, on the other hand, violated the current Constitution and legislation by his edicts. If we are speaking of the zero option, it is only in the sense of the president's cancellation of his edicts. The Supreme Council will not, I believe, accept any other versions.

As far as the speeches of the deputies are concerned, only two of them rose to the defense of the president of Crimea with a condemnation of the actions of the Supreme Council. Deputy Yeroshkin expressed the assurance that parliament could do something positive only with a strong president and with a strict, fine-tuned executive. Deputy Kovalskiy demanded the immediate commencement of negotiations with the president, calling the Supreme Council of Crimea "so-called" and calling for its dissolution, even if this entailed Crimea becoming a regular oblast.

After which the floor was granted Deputy Bakharev, who observed that "history repeats itself, the second time as farce, to which the speech of the previous speaker testifies." In a no less emotional speech he demanded, in turn, the dismissal of the president from office and the elimination of the institution of the presidency in Crimea altogether and also the resignation of the government and the formation of a new government of national trust.

After the break, the session continued its work. It was addressed by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, who expressed a readiness to negotiate with parliament, if it observed the conditions that he put forward.

Feodosiya Council Rejects Meshkov Edicts

944K2326B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[V. Mits report: "Simply Remained a Puzzle"]

[Text] Representatives of grassroots movements of the city with appeals for the defense of the councils had begun to gather from the early morning on Monday outside the Feodosiya City Council building.

The leaders of enterprises and organizations of the city assembled in the Executive Committee's conference hall around 1000. A nervous conversation concerning the transfer of power to V. Gerzhov, representative of the Office of the President of Crimea, was being conducted at this time in the office of Chairman D. Novitskiy.

And those assembled in the conference hall awaited official information on the situation.

V. Kostyuk, assistant to the president of Crimea, briefly described what had happened in Simferopol on 10 September and on Sunday and made known the package of edicts of the president of Crimea of 6 through 9 September 1994.

The edicts on the organization of state administration in Crimea in the period of preparation of a referendum on a new constitution and on elections of a legislative assembly and organs of local government and also the decisions of the president of Crimea on the appointment of V. Gerzhov as head of the administration of the city of Feodosiya were then read out. This entire information evoked an ambivalent response. Heckling was heard, and speeches followed. D. Novitskiy told those assembled that on the initiative of a group of deputies it had been decided to hold a special session of the city council.

It began work at 1500. The chairman of the city council briefly described the political situation that had taken shape in Crimea, expressed his attitude, and proposed that the moment be discussed. Practically all the deputies that spoke, except for Sechkarev, found Yu. Meshkov's actions to be anticonstitutional and moved that they be deemed illegal. And, naturally, not subject to execution. The words "usurpation of power," "exceeding authority," "hasty conclusions," and so forth were heard in the speeches.

The deputies B. Vasilyev, A. Pryasnyakov, V. Govorun, and others were particularly outspoken.

The session adopted a decision, the essence of which amounts to recognition of the edicts of the president of Crimea as unconstitutional and to the need for the continued functioning of the Feodosiya City Council and its executive committee under the chairmanship of D. Novitskiy.

As far as the appointment of V. Gerzhov as head of the administration is concerned, his functions remained for the deputies puzzling and unclear.

Republican Party Deplores Meshkov Actions

944K2326C Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by the Press Office of the Republican Party of Crimea/Republican Movement of Crimea: "Emphatic Condemnation"]

[Text] A meeting of the Simferopol city organization of the Republic Party of Crimea (RDK Party), which made an evaluation of the political situation that has taken shape in Crimea, was held on Monday, 12 September.

It was observed that Yu. Meshkov's actions were in flagrant breach of the Constitution of Crimea of 6 May 1994, whose restoration had been demanded by the people of Crimea. In the past seven months Yu. Meshkov, under the influence of his entourage, has departed completely from the program of the RPK/RDK [Republic Party of Crimea/Republican Movement of Crimea] and his election promises. Not only has the composition of the government proposed by the president been incapable of undertaking economic reforms but the government has simply not been conclusively formed in the seven months.

Only an aspiration to hold on to power at any price could explain the appeal to the president and Supreme Council of Ukraine, which accuses the Supreme Council of Crimea of an aspiration to realize the "Crimean-Russian" idea.

The Simferopol city organization of the RPK/RDK emphatically condemns the actions of Yu. Meshkov, who has attempted to eliminate the system of councils and the Constitution of 6 May 1994.

The Simferopol city organization of the RPK/RDK demands both of the president and of the Russia faction that they comply with the election program and be guided in their activity by the Constitution of Crimea of 6 May 1994.

Journalist Deplores Crimean 'Putsch'

944K2326D Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by N. Gavrileva: "A Little About Authority"]

[Text] Our issue for yesterday was, most likely, a surprise for Crimeans: It was of a smaller format and not all that varied in terms of genres. The reason is simple—the newspaper occupies the same building as the Crimean parliament, and when some political squabbles occur, journalists become their hostages. And the readers suffer as a result. We put together the previous issue at the printing works of the Tavrida Publishers, where we had been admitted out of solidarity, on someone else's equipment, and without the normal supply of materials, which had all been left behind in closed offices.

These lines were composed in the editorial office on a familiar computer. As of today life has ostensibly entered its customary channel, but there remains... perplexity. We journalists will, of course, address these two September days repeatedly and will attempt to analyze what happened, why this happened, and who needed this. My puzzlement began as of Monday evening, when the deputies managed to make their way to the radio and television microphones. It was clear that the president would yield his positions. But why had they been taken in the first place?

It is somehow highly apropros that I have at this time on my desk in front of me a booklet on events of days long gone by—on the life of the ancient Romans. I read it and am astonished: Nearly 1,000 years ago [as published] people knew how to organize the life of their state in such a way that it was not fine slogans that became paramount but intellect, boldness, and wisdom. Civilization knew even then what was meant by the "ring of power"—a balance of the branches of power, their clear separation, and their interaction.

But what is happening with us, in the 20th century, on a most illustrious piece of land? We are arguing and quarreling—and all on account of power. The mutual accusations of do-nothingness are more often than not indiscriminate, are not supported by facts, and are made from both sides merely to call attention to oneself and to show that it is this branch of power that is more important and more necessary and that cares more for the good of the people.

What is vexing in this situation is the fact that both the president and parliament obtained practically simultaneously one and the same mandate of trust from the people, having amassed an overwhelming majority of the electorate's votes. It is appropriate to recall here that they arrived on a common platform and with the same slogans and that they were not simply associates in the struggle, they were friends! And so easily and rapidly have they been pulled into medieval showdowns....

It is gratifying that this is, fortunately, understood by many representatives of the Crimean parliament. This refrain was heard throughout yesterday in deputies' conversations both at the session itself and in the lobbies. There will be no righteous and guilty in this "putsch" (how reluctant I am to use this word!)—this was plain immediately. It is plain now also, when three days have passed, and the people are still looking with the same indifference on the hankerings of the power structures to take for themselves just a little more authority. With whichever Crimeans I spoke, they all looked at me as someone that was not quite right: Winter is approaching, the tomatoes have not yet been canned, the potatoes have not been purchased, coal has still not been acquired—what sort of righteousness and whose are you talking about?!

It is here that we need to be speaking in full voice about such a concept as the authority of power. For there to be peace and tranquillity it is essential that we re-sp-ect our power. What is needed for this? Primarily that it respect itself. And start by precisely separating its functions. But with us.... We had only just confirmed the government, albeit in less than full complement, and we are already shouting: "Resign." What, could we not organize supervision of it and give it conditions such that it operate without fear and censure? And is this not up to the legislator? If not, this is all too reminiscent of satisfaction of some people's personal ambitions that do not happen to accord with the original decision.

Or power solicited authority—it was given it. But it, this power, waits six months in order, when it is canceled for being of no use, to organize a row for all of Europe. Where's the logic? And the ordinary person sits and watches, not understanding who wishes in this great game to outwit whom.

Mankind long since devised an antidote to all these "intricacies": It invented laws and, most important, the constitution, in accordance with which it lives. And punishment awaits those that violate them—from derision to prison. But we still think that a million votes obtained from the people eight months ago (I wonder what this figure would be now) affords some people the right still to bask in the rays of glory and to command one's "own" people....

I do not yet know how the confrontation in Crimea will end. It is inspiring that even at the most critical moments neither side transgressed the line that separates us from man and approaches the animal. This affords a sense of hope for a felicitous outcome. And I have faith that all will end well and that we, discharged from politics, will have time to prepare even for the winter. But the feeling of resentment will remain....

I wonder, were the people who hatched the plans for a "palace coup" really thinking about the good of Crimea? Judging by Ostankino, which has so often at this time been reporting the events with anxious voices, the whole world is alarmed. A simple question: How many foreign investors, whom we are so much awaiting and hoping that they will help us crawl out of poverty, will want to come here and risk their money?...

Masol Calls Power Supply Situation Critical

LD1509193694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Kiev, 15 Sep—Ukraine's power producers have held a session at the Ukraine House to address the provision of industrial and domestic consumers with electricity and thermal power in the autumn and winter of 1994-95. The session was attended by Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, representatives of ministries and departments, including the Power Ministry, power stations, railways, and oblast Councils of People's Deputies.

Vitaliy Masol warned that Ukraine was now in an almost critical condition in terms of power supply to the national economy. He said:

"By 1 September, Ukraine had only paid for the gas supplied in 1993, while oil deliveries from as long ago as 1992 have not been paid for yet because our own products' sales volume is insufficient. No less difficult is the situation with coal: While a daily 85,000 tons of it was being extracted in June, this figure has now gone down to 70,000 per day and what Ukraine needs is at least 90,000. We are short of money to repair what is old and to purchase new equipment for the thermal power complex." [passage omitted]

Meshkov Policy Blamed for Lack of Investments

WS1609074494 Simferopol GOLOS KRYMA in Russian 2 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Yuliy Vadimov: "Why Turkish Businessmen Do Not Hurry To Crimea"]

[Text] A prominent British businessman, asked by a Moscow reporter why he does not invest in the Russian economy, said: "I will start investing only after Russian businessmen start doing so. So far, however, they prefer to keep their hard currency in London banks."

A similar situation, very unfavorable to investors, has recently developed in Crimea. The autonomous republic's leadership, which inherited all the "birthmarks" of the bankrupt communist system, is demonstrating total inability to work in the new environment and does not seem to understand the specific features of a market economy.

When, following lengthy discussions, the Crimean legislature voted last summer for the peninsula's free economic status, businessmen from various states, including Turkey, saw a beam of light. However, months passed, yet the resolution was not supported by any legislative decisions. The laws on protecting foreign investments, the tax policy, and the Crimean customs service were not passed.

Today, despite the fact that the new administration, represented by President Yuriy Meshkov, repeatedly declared its intentions to "turn on the green light" for market-type reform in Crimea, in reality "a mountain gave birth to a mouse." Moscow economist Yevgeniy Saburov, invited by Meshkov to the post of deputy prime minister, on the one hand faced opposition on the part of local bureaucrats, and on the other hand—official Kiev's negative reaction. It took Kiev a month to carry out the quite simple operation of changing Saburov's Russian citizenship to Ukrainian.

Finally, after assuming his official post in Simferopol, the Moscow guest was dumbfounded by the fact that the work of his government was controlled and chaperoned by the Presidential Council comprising 74 (!) people. Thus in fact, a shadow government was functioning in Crimea. The situation became even more hazy after Ukrainian President Kravchuk appointed well-known manager Valeriy Horbatov, chairman of Nizhegorskiy rayon Krupskaya agricultural company, his envoy to Crimea.

According to the law on the division of powers between Crimea and Ukraine, the Ukrainian president's envoy, not meddling in local affairs, had to observe whether Crimean laws were in line with Ukrainian ones. However, many local administrators in Crimean towns and villages, as well as industrial and agricultural managers were inclined to view Valeriy Horbatov as a more reliable partner than the current Crimean president.

Besides, there are grounds to believe that suspecting Meshkov of pro-Moscow and separatist sentiments, the Ukrainian leadership will do everything in their power to derail his possible attempts to introduce the Russian ruble as a parallel currency in Crimea. Meanwhile, we would like to remind you that this was one of the primary provisions of Meshkov's election campaign, the provision that won him overall support from Russian-speaking Crimean electors.

Although after the inauguration, Meshkov spoke about the need to overcome the "temptation of resolving Crimea's economic problems by political methods," even after becoming president he, in fact, remained a "rally preacher" and a favorite of mobs. Suffice it to mention his edict on Crimean conscripts' service in the peninsula (overruled by the Ukrainian president) or his populist remark about outright corruption in Crimea's law enforcement bodies, which resulted in the dismissal of the Crimean minister of internal affairs. Or take the Crimean president's interference in the work of the television, when he preferred to replace unruly Valeriy Astakhov at the post of "Crimea" television company manager.

As it is, involved in petty things, unworthy of a statesman, Meshkov forgot about his principal promise—to lift the economy out of the crisis. The economy continues to be in sad shape. Crimea's 17 largest enterprises have in fact stopped operating; the state has not yet settled the accounts with farmers for the harvest they sold in 1993; Crimean entrepreneurs, dissatisfied with the predatory tax policy, threaten to announce a general lockout, which would dramatically increase the number of unemployed.

In this situation Prime Minister Saburov, trying to somehow alleviate the consequences of falling into the abyss of inflation, has urgently drafted three fundamental bills. First, he has suggested the annulment of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers resolution, adopted at the end of 1993, providing for a mandatory exchange of 50 percent of the hard currency earned by enterprises at a rate fixed by the state. In Crimea, the state would buy these 50 percent at a market price, after which currency would be freely sold at the Crimean currency exchange. Second, a law on foreign investments is being drafted. And finally, instead of the income tax, murderous to producers, a profit tax would be introduced (that is to say salaries would be taxed).

However, God alone knows whether these good intentions would be implemented. The already complex political situation in Crimea became even more unstable following the recent legislative elections, resulting in the presidential "Russia" bloc winning a majority in the new Supreme Soviet. The parties that are in opposition to "Russia" accuse the latter of numerous violations of the electoral law, including campaigning at polling stations on the day of elections. The Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea has officially appealed to proclaim the election results invalid and to hold new elections.

Should we blame Turkish businessmen, then, for not lining up to invest their money in Crimea?

Political Tensions Fuelled by Language Issue

LD1609104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Kiev September 16 TASS—The language problem has detonated new political clashes of late in Ukraine after President Leonid Kuchma proposed to amend acting legislation and provide the official status to the Russian language while the Ukrainian one would preserve the state status.

National mass media have been publishing for over a month completely different viewpoints on the problem. Here are some typical pronouncements from letters received by the "RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA" daily: "Ukrainian patriots want no bilingualism, there should be only one language - Ukrainian", writes World War Two veteran Pyotr Bushe. He insists that bilingualism would serve only "the enemies of Ukraine" and "a bunch of Russian scum".

The same opinion is shared by several nationalistic organisations and a part of intelligentsia. A number of cultural workers fear that the official status of the Russian language will signal "a new phase of russification" of Ukraine and can split the Ukrainian society.

Several politicians have also denounced the presidential initiative.

However, different opinions also exist. Some readers believe bilingualism would mean respect to the great neighbour. "are ukrainian patriots only those people who speak ukrainian?" valentina zhdanova from the city of primorsk asked. "some people are against friendship with russia, but we won't be able to survive in isolation", grigori kirichenko from vinnitza added.

Ukrainian communists supported the presidential initiative and denounced the "hysteric fuss" unleashed by mass media. Extremist statements against attributing an official status to t he russian language are a rude violation of the rights of Russians, other nationalities who consider the Russian language to be their native one, the communist party said in a statement.

According to the latest census of 1989, that group of people comprises 16.9 million or a third of the population of Ukraine.

"Putting the stake on total and practically forced introduction of the Ukrainian language is not only undemocratic, but also a big mistake", the Communist Party said.

The initiative of Kuchma about the second official language was dictated by state interests, the wish to preserve the unity and the territorial integrity of the country, Kuchma's aide on internal policy Vladimir Litvin told TASS. He explained that nothing should be done which can break the "fragile civic peace" in Ukraine. It is necessary to drop the policy of forced ukrainization on the one hand, and potect the Ukrainian language on the other by creating the necessary conditions for its free development - publish school manuals in Ukrainian, promote the development of national theatre, cinema, tv.

The present ballyhoo around bilingualism is caused, according to Litvin, by the fact that "the part of the population which does not accept the Russian language is small, but very active politically". He also believes that tensions around the language problem are caused by serious economic difficulties now facing Ukraine.

The economic crisis can be overcome in conditions of stability and consolidation of society which is impossible without the correct decision of the language problem, Litvin believes.

Labor Congress Supports Kuchma's Actions in Crimea

LD1509200594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The Labor Congress of Ukraine has supported the actions by the president to normalize the situation in Crimea. This was said in a statement by the party in connection with the crisis in the autonomy. The document contains an appeal to Crimean legislative and executive leaders to stop any attempts to sort out their relations by anticonstitutional means.

The Labor Congress forwarded a proposal to the Supreme Council to contribute to the quickest possible solution. In the opinion of the party's leadership, the socioeconomic situation in Crimea should be considered at a session of the Supreme Council of Ministers and measures should be taken to improve it.

Kuchma Edict To Change Status of State TV Company

LD1509200894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1535 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—During his conversation with a UNIAN correspondent today, Oleksandr Savenko, president of the State TV and Radio Company, pointed out that Leonid Kuchma's edict on a new status of the State TV and Radio Company was being prepared. After its signing one can expect radical changes both in the structure and in the entire operation of the state television.

As the UNIAN correspondent learned from trustworthy sources, it is planned to establish a new procedure of maintaining relations between the TV center and creative associations. The latter will be vested with more rights to use technical means. Also expected is a change in the mode of operation of UT-3 [Third Channel of the Ukrainian Television].

Government Takes Measures To Settle Gas Debt

LD1509204194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Ukraine's Minister of Industry Anatoliy Holubchenko was officially reprimanded at a Cabinet of Ministers Presidium session today for the violation of the intergovernmental decisions on payments for gas agreed between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine and Turkmenistan. The attention of Viktor Petrov, minister of machine-Building, military-Industrial complex, and conversion, Vilen Semenyuk, minister of power engineering and electrification, and Mykhaylo Honcharuk, first deputy minister of finance, was drawn to this fact. The attention of Mykhaylo Kovalko, chairman of DerzhKomNaftoHaz [State Oil and Gas Committee], was drawn to the fact that control over the payments for gas was loosened.

The Cabinet of Ministers Presidium forwarded a demand to ministries, departments, and local bodies of executive power to take measures for the liquidation of the indebtedness, to establish strict control over gas consumption and timely payments for the gas.

The course of implementing the State Contract and State Order for the delivery of export goods has been considered. During the first six months of the year only 21.5

percent of the volume contracted for the year was delivered. It is envisaged to prepare proposals to cut down the list of products in 1995 whose export is subject to allocation and licensing, and also to improve the procedure of implementing the treaties on trade and economic cooperation with the CIS and Baltic countries.

Three draft laws were considered, whose adoption is to contribute to the improvement of the taxation policy. In particular, they envisage that as of 1 January 1995 the income tax of enterprises and organizations will be replaced by a profit tax at the main rate of 30 percent, a tax will be imposed on the property of enterprises with the aim of achieving a more effective use of the production assets and reducing the stocks of raw materials and ready-made products down to an optimal volume. It is also proposed to impose a tax on the immovable property of citizens.

The draft laws will be submitted to the Supreme Council of Ukraine after they are properly worked up.

Belarus

Defense Ministry Holds Talks With NATO's Waters

LD1509143294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1115 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Svetlana Kalinkina for TASS]

[Text] Minsk September 15 TASS—Secretary-General of the Byelorussian [Belarusian] Security Council Viktor Sheyman met Deputy Commander of the NATO Allied Forces in Europe General John Waters in Minsk on Thursday.

High-ranking NATO and Byelorussian Defence Ministry officials took part in the meeting.

According to the socio-political information department of the Byelorussian president's administration, the discussion centred around deepening military and political cooperation in Europe, cooperation in converting military to civilian production and in handling emergency situations, as well as around the proposal for creating favourable conditions for flexible interaction and combination of interests of different European countries in the field of security.

UN Official on Aid to Chernobyl Victims

WS1509124494 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] U.N. Under-Secretary-General Peter Hansen has held a press conference on the results of his visit to Belarus. Journalists' questions were also answered by U.N. representative in Belarus Mr. Matthew Kahane, representative of the U.N. Secretariat for Chernobyl David Chikvandze and Ivan Kenik, minister for extraordinary situations and protecting the population from the consequences of the catastrophe at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station.

According to Peter Hansen, next week a meeting on the Chernobyl problems will be held in Geneva with the participation of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, as well as the countries rendering aid.

During the talks Peter Hansen held with Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir they discussed aspects of the subsequent cooperation between the United Nations and Belarus in the field of the solution of a wide range of questions concerning Chernobyl. As is generally known, in 1991 the United Nations embarked on a program of assistance to the USSR. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union every republic had to persist in its rights to the necessary aid. It required much efforts to Belarus so that the World Health Organization would acknowledge the fact that thyroid gland cancer is caused by radiation.

According to I. Kenik, at present in Belarus there are three rehabilitation centres for victims of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. He informed journalists that Belarus needed about $150 million only for purchasing medicines and medical supplies, and $500-600 million for purchasing equipment with a view to arrange yearly mass examinations of the population living in contaminated areas.

GATT Official Discusses Membership Terms

WS1609094694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Mr. Millan, senior adviser of the GATT general director, has completed a visit to Minsk. During his visit, the GATT official met Cabinet of Ministers Deputy Chairman Mikhail Myasnikovich, as well as representatives of the various state departments engaged in the problems of Belarus' joining the GATT.

As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, to join the GATT, Belarus must go through a great many stages for improving national laws in the fields of trade, intellectual property rights, finance, and a number of other areas. The situation is aggravated by the fact that on 1 January 1995, an international agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) comes into force. Within WTO, the GATT will cover only commodity trade. Membership in the WTO envisages a number of additional demands on countries seeking to join. One of the stages of Belarus' joining the WTO is the adoption of a memorandum on trade regime, work on which is practically completed.

Lukashenka Appoints New Labor Minister

LD1509194894 Minsk Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information in Russian 1428 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—President of Belarus A. Lukashenka signed an edict on the appointment of Alyaksandr Sasnow as Minister of Labor. Up to now A. Sasnow had been heading the parliamentary Commission for Questions of Labor, Prices, Employment, and Social Protection of the Population.

Voters Disagree on Unification with Russia

MM1509131394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 94 p 3

["Belorussian Mosaic" feature by Ivan Sergeyev]

[Excerpt]

Disagreement with President

Many readers of Belorussian [Belarusian] newspapers totally disagree with the country's President Lukashenka on the need for unification with Russia. "I voted for

Lukashenka and for a free Belorussia [Belarus]," Gennadiy Pakhom from Molodechno writes in NARODNAYA GAZETA. "I believe that Lukashneka's statement demeans the country." Another reader suggests that the president first conduct an experiment, unite his own family with a large, multinational gypsy family, and then we will see what happens. It is also unclear how the president came to the conclusion that 80 percent of Belorussians favor unification and voted for it. After all, only 70 percent of the electorate turned out to vote, and 54 percent of all the voters voted for Lukashenko.

General Loses Star

Former Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy has been demoted to the rank of lieutenant general by edict of Belorussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka. The head of state also instructed the current Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka to decide whether it was advisable that the aforementioned general should remain in the Belorussian Armed Forces.

That was the consequence of the wedding of Kozlovskiy's son. Incidentally, he had married the daughter of Belorussian Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb. The wedding ceremony and party took place on the premises of a military unit in the presence of numerous guests and senior officials. Following an investigation by the president's staff inspection service it was established that the state had suffered major damage as a result of the family party. [passage omitted]

Russia is Only Outside Supplier of Oil

WS1509130894 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] According to data received from the state concern "Belnaftapradukt," Belarus' demand for oil is an estimated 16-18 million tonnes a year. Two million of them are covered by the national oil extraction, the rest is imported from Russia by clearing or through commercial organizations. In the opinion of president of the concern Anton Layko, the republic's oil extraction industry is not able for the present to raise the national production by more than 500 thousand tons for technical reasons, and Belarus has no opportunity to import oil from anywhere else but Russia for economic reasons. For instance, on September 8, at the Rotterdam exchange, oil was valued at $121 per tonne. Even if a seller agrees to give a discount of $10-15, the price of every tonne will considerably increase (by $50) in view of transportation. A tonne of Russia's oil costs Belarus $70, while its transportation through oil pipelines—$7-8.

Moldova

Foreign Minister Insists on Troop Pullout

LD1509171394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1344 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Moldova's Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov confirmed Kishinev's [Chisinau] position on the presence of Russia's 14th Army on Moldovan territory.

Summing up the results of his visit to Bucharest, Popov told newsmen Thursday that "Moldova never allowed the deployment of a foreign army on its territory".

An agreement on the withdrawal of Russia's 14th Army had already been initialed, he said, but a special Russian-Ukrainian agreement on the transit passage of the troops was yet to be signed. Popov said he hoped the international community would keep an eye on this extremely important issue.

Popov favored further economic integration with neighboring Rumania [Romania] as well as Moldovan-Rumanian cooperation in various fields and in the context of international organizations. He said Moldova would welcome any initiative that met its own interests.

Popov also said that his republic favored expanded cooperation in the context of the economic union of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Meeting of Chisinau, Tiraspol Experts Postponed

LD1509182394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1628 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] September 15 TASS—A meeting between experts from Kishinev and the Dniester region, which was scheduled to be held today, has been put off approximately until the end of this month. The meeting was to discuss bills worked out by both sides regarding a special political status for the Dniester region.

The two sides accused each other for the meeting's postponement. Informed sources in the Moldavian [Moldovan] Foreign Ministry said that the meeting was deferred on a request from the Tiraspol experts, as the latter had not been able to prepare their version of the bill on a special status for the region. Valeriy Litskay, head of the Tiraspol expert group and state secretary, said that the meeting was postponed on Kishinev's request.

The expert groups to work out state and legal status of the Dniester region were formed in accordance with understandings reached on regulating the conflict during a meeting between the Moldavian and the Dniester region leadership held on April 28, 1994.

After the April meeting, both sides continued to stick to their own different versions of the agreement's interpretations. According to the Tiraspol leaders, it concerns the recognition of the state status of the Dniester region, calling on Kishinev to create a confederation.

Moldavia did not agree to it and introduced a provision in the new constitution about a united and indivisible Moldavia, thereby wiping out the hope even for a confederation. As a result the experts have not been able to meet even once over the past four months since May.

Snegur 'Upbeat' on New Government Program

MM1509144194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Sep 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Lyudmila Feliksova: "New Government Program"]

[Text] The Moldavian [Moldovan] parliament has adopted its long-promised government program.

This is the fourth such program in the period of the republic's sovereignty. Governments there have changed the same number of times. It was adopted under difficult conditions. The economic slump is continuing across the board. Industry is having a particularly hard time. Many enterprises are simply dead, and there is unemployment on a massive scale. But the law on bankruptcy adopted by the previous parliament is still not in force—there is no mechanism to implement it.

In the opinion of specialists, the simple recipes put forward by certain international experts, particularly the IMF (roughly along the lines of "open your gates and fire all your workers"), are currently unsuitable for the republic. The republic's budget will simply not be able to afford the recapitalization of inoperative enterprises—as is the case in Europe—or unemployment benefits for those put out of work.

The current program proposes three priority avenues—for the first time the government will be emphasizing the strengthening of the republic's statehood and the implementation of a vigorous foreign policy in this area. The first two governments—of Druk and Muravskiy [name as transliterated]—looked toward Romania, in the belief that Moldavian sovereignty was an intermediate stage on the road to reunification with this neighboring state.

The second avenue is to restore the viability of the unified territorial-economic complex and to deepen economic reform. Understandably, this means the full-fledged functioning of economic and financial relations with the Dniester region and the Gagauz. Otherwise it will be impossible to count on the reform program working effectively.

And, finally, provided stabilization is achieved, there will be a range of social measures. These will not be more leveling [oni ne budut boleye uravnitelnymi].

The speech by Moldovan President M. Snegur to parliament on the new government program was upbeat. "The main thing," he believes, "is to maintain calm and restore people's faith in top state institutions."

Not all factions of deputies shared the head of state's optimism about the program. As was to be expected, the opposition voted against. The Socialists also had major objections.

Justice Minister Asked Not To Suspend Parties

AU1509170094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2030 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/9/1994—Yesterday evening, Justice Minister Vasile Sturza met with the Christian Democratic People's Front (FPCD) leaders, BASA learned from Sergiu Mocanu, a FPCD leader. He said that the reason for this meeting was the message sent by the FPCD to the Justice Ministry, and the Prosecutor's Office demand to suspend the activity of several political parties as their statures contradict the Constitution. The Supreme Court plays the role of the Constitutional Court. In his opinion, the Supreme Court does not have the right to interpret the Constitution and this conflict can be settled only by using constitutional provisions. "The FPCD believes that until the Constitutional Court is instituted, the Prosecutor's Office should withdraw its demand," said Mocanu. According to him, the minister has not made public any decision, whereas the FPCD leaders announced that they will not change the statute and program. This problem will be examined by the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights whose chairman Vladimir Solonari earlier disapproved of the Prosecutor's Office demand.

Commission Examines Demand To Suspend Parties

AU1509184494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2030 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 14/9/1994—Today, the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights examined the Moldovan Prosecutor's Office demand to suspend the activities of some parties whose statutes contradict the Constitution. Nicolae Ursu, Moldovan deputy prosecutor general and initiator of this demand, gave as the reason his "concern about respect for the Constitution and legislation." He pointed out that "Prosecutor General Dumitru Postovan learned about his demand later."

Vasile Sturza, Justice Minister, stated that according to the Constitution, the parliament alone has the right to demand the suspension of certain political parties' activity. The commission agreed on offering the parties the chance to change their statutes without suspending their activity. A decision adopted by the commission says that "the commission took note of the Prosecutor's Office demand and recommends the Justice Ministry to meet with representatives of these parties." Vladimir Solonari, of the Socialist Alliance, refused to comment on the Prosecutor's Office demand and did not ask the withdrawal of the demand. Vlad Cubreacov, of the Christian Democratic People's Front Alliance, called the meeting of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights "inefficient."

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Meets Lithuanian Leader

LD1509212594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Almaty—The meeting of the head of the Lithuanian state delegation Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan, lasted for several hours. During this long and friendly conversation, topical problems for both the countries were discussed: trade in Lithuanian textiles, transit of Kazakhstan goods through the port of Klaipeda, and railway tariffs.

Apart from the visit by the Lithuanian delegation, another important event, a congress of industrialists and businessmen of Kazakhstan, took place in Almaty today. The Lithuanian prime minister was also invited to the congress by Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan.

The Lithuanian prime minister's speech to congress was almost an hour long. No other speech made at the congress was so eagerly received and given such wide comment. Specific points in the prime minister's speech were commented upon by President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Tereshchenko. "We have to know not only how you did it, but also your mistakes," the leaders of the Kazakh economy said after the congress. [passage omitted]

Economic Agreements Signed

LD1509120294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] At 1000, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius met Kazakhstani Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko. The main problems of bilateral relations were discussed. Then the official delegations of both states had a meeting. Heads of the most important Kazakhstan ministries took part.

During the negotiations, speaking of economic relations between Lithuania and Kazakhstan, Prime Minister Tereshchenko expressed the hope that shortly their volume would be counted not in scores but in hundreds of millions of dollars, and that the transit of Kazakhstani goods through the port of Klaipeda would be substantially increased.

Slezevicius stressed the necessity of releasing without delay the frozen funds of the Lithuanian enterprises in Kazakhstan amounting to several million dollars. He conveyed the request of Lithuanian transport workers to reduce currency payments for Lithuanian students attending a civil aviation school in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's representatives were invited to extend their aviation routes to Europe through Lithuania with the possibility of refueling in Vilnius. Ships built to withstand conditions in the Caspian Sea were offered to Kazakhstan. On the other hand, Kazakhstan may be a good transit post to our people and firms on the way to India. Kazakhstan was invited to open its embassy in Vilnius as soon as possible.

At 1130, official documents were signed—an agreement between the Governments of Lithuania and Kazakhstan on the stimulation of investments and their mutual protection by Prime Ministers Slezevicius and Tereshchenko. An agreement was signed between the Lithuanian Government and the Bank of Lithuania, and the Kazakhstan Government and the National Bank of Kazakhstan on the settlement of accounts by economic subjects. [passage omitted]

Representatives of the Bank of Lithuania signed an agreement between them and the National Bank of Kazakhstan on the organization of the settlement of accounts.

After the signing of the documents, Prime Ministers Slezevicius and Tereshchenko held a joint news conference. The Lithuanian prime minister, on the request of journalists, described in detail the principles and means of privatization in Lithuania and how inflation was bridled. Since the Lithuanian delegation intends to visit Baykonur, there were questions even about Lithuania's space ambitions. [passage omitted] The visit by the Lithuanian delegation in Kazakhstan will be concluded tomorrow.

Edict Issued on President-State Body Cooperation

LD1609020894 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—An edict by the Kazakh President on interaction between the president and the republican state bodies. In order for the Kazakh president to realize his constitutional powers and improve a mechanism for interaction between the head of state and the state bodies, I decree:

1. To establish that the Kazakh Cabinet of Ministers, in implementing a government program aimed at deepening reforms and lifting the country's economy out of crisis, should independently exercise the current management of the country's economy, regulate economic relations, address operational issues, and bear full responsibility for quality and efficiency of the taken steps and measures.

The Kazakh president will only intervene and supervise the most important issues of market transformations and socio-economic development of the country.

2. The Kazakh president, as a head of state and guarantor of the Constitution and laws, rights and freedoms, should be informed systematically:

By the prime minister on the work of the government; by the chairman of the National Bank on the work of the National Bank; by chairmen of the Supreme Court and the High Arbitration Court on the work of courts in protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens and ensuring hierarchy of the Constitution, legality, and justice in the country; by the Procurator General on the work of procuracy bodies in supervising the implementation of laws in Kazakhstan.

3. To establish that cooperation between the National Bank, courts, and bodies of procuracy with the Cabinet of Ministers as well as ensuring activities of the National Bank, courts, and procuracy bodies is done in accordance with presidential acts, provided that these issues are not covered by republican laws.

In connection with the greater independece of the Cabinet of Ministers in the area of state management and regulation of economy, to envisage the following:

The president participates in examining and addressing current socio-economic problems, which are being raised by ministries, departments, and state committees, only after prior examination of them by the republican Cabinet of Ministers and on its presentation, given that the Kazakh President will not take a different view.

All letters and documents, which have been sent to the president by ministries, state committees, departments, and heads of administration, enterprises, and organizations on the current state management issues and containing production economics requests and proposals will be readdressed by presidential apparatus to the Cabinet of Ministers and relevant state bodies. The president as a rule will not be informed on that.

Central and local bodies of executive power can report to the president directly on certain domestic and foreign policy issues as well as on the issues of socio-economic life.

5. [number as received] To establish a regulation on agreeing with the Kazakh president of certain legislation proposals and the Cabinet of Ministers's plan for legislative work, as well as draft laws that have been prepared by the Cabinet of Ministers, the Supreme Court and the High Arbitration Court and that are attributed by the Constitution and republican laws to presidential powers.

With the presidential apparatus—draft Cabinet of Ministers' resolutions [word indistinct] envisaged by presidential acts and draft decisions that have been examined by the government sessions, chaired by the president, as well as draft proposals on the central bodies of state management, which have been set up by presidential acts. With the Kazakh Cabinet of Ministers—draft laws, which are submitted by the president for consideration by the Supreme Soviet and that are remitted to the government, with the Supreme Court and the High Arbitration Court of Kazakhstan—draft laws, which are submitted by the president for consideration by the Supreme Soviet and referring to a status and limits of rights of courts and judges of Kazakhstan. Draft presidential bills on the major economic issues, legal reform, and social protection of population are prepared with the obligatory participation of the Cabinet of Ministers. If need be with the involvement of the National Bank, courts, and the office of the republican Procurator General. [paragraph as received]

6. Preparation of conclusions on the submitted documents specified by paraghragh 5 of the abovementioned decree should be done within two weeks since the day of their arrival, given that another date is not specified.

7. With a view to keeping the Kazakh president informed on the state of things in the country, to invest the presidential apparatus with a right to get nessessary information from boards of the Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, state committees, departments, and the National Bank, heads of local administration as well as the right to entrust them with tasks.

8. To envisage that the head of the presidential apparatus, his deputies, state councillors, and leaders of sub-units of the presidential apparatus can attend sittings of the Kazakh Cabinet of Ministers and its Presidium with voice but no vote.

9. The head of the presidential apparatus within a month should draft and submit for approval by the president standing orders of the work of the presidential apparatus, which will foresee apart from norms of business correspondence a regulation on preparing, agreeing, and submitting for signing presidential acts as well as organizing control over their implementation.

10. The Cabinet of Ministers should take into consideration articles of this decree and draft and approve regulations of work of a board, other standard acts, and a regulation on preparing the Cabinet of Ministers' decisions.

11. The head of the presidential appartus is responsible for implementation of this decree.

12. The above decree comes into force since the day of its publication.

[Signed] President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev

[Dated] Almaty, 12 September 1994

Economics Minister Stripped of Immunity

LD1509190294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] After a renewed debate on Wednesday, the Kazakh parliament agreed to withdraw parliamentary immunity from Economics Minister Mars Urkumbayev on criminal charges.

He is accused of office abuse and substantial damage to the state interests.

The Supreme Soviet meeting on September 8 fell four votes short needed to strip Urkumbayev of his parliamentary immunity which is valid until December 1995.

However, the house passed a majority resolution to do so on Wednesday.

On a plea from the prosecutor general's office, President Nazarbayev had suspended Urkumbayev from his job for four weeks until August 15 while investigation was under way. IF Note: Urkumbayev himself in an interview with the national Express K newspaper on September 7 had denied the charges. He attributes the current noise over his personality to his pro-reformist stand. Urkumbayev also described himself as being victimized by high-ranking hardline officials, but he gave no names.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guards Destroy Insurgents' Base

LD1609082994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0751 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 16 TASS—A major stronghold of Tajik mujahideens was routed by Russian frontier guards on Thursday during search and combat operations in the Sarigorsk direction, in the area of deployment of the 12th Frontier Guard Post of the Moscow frontier guard detachment. An arms cache with missile-launching installations, mines and a large amount of ammunition was destroyed. It was made by irreconcilable opposition fighters, who infiltrated the Tajik border area for waging a guerrilla war on the territory of Tajikistan. During the armed clash Russian frontier guards killed 12 Tajik mujahideens, a spokesman for the press group of the Russian frontier guard troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS. He stressed that the operation was continuing. However, it could be more effective, if the 201st Russian Motorized Rifle Division, included in the collective peacekeeping force, took part in it.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said on September 13 in Nizhniy Novgorod that a Russian army group in Tajikistan should be reinforced. It should be able "not only to protect, but also to defend the border, and, if necessary, to deal strong blows at bandit groups," he believes.

In the opinion of the defense minister, the frontier guards and the army should cooperate better with each other. Frontier guard troops cannot fulfil on their own their mission on the Tajik-Afghan border. It is necessary "to pool all the forces, and this will make the situation in the region more stable", he said.

Two Russian Servicemen Killed

LD1509120794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1042 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 15 Sep—Two more Russian servicemen from the collective peacekeeping forces have fallen victim to armed attacks by unidentified persons in Tajikistan. The republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that on Wednesday [14 September] evening in Kurgan-Tyube, the administrative center of Khoatlon Oblast, unidentified persons inflicted serious stab wounds on Senior Sergeant Andrey Masterov from which the 22 year-old soldier, who was serving on contract, died.

Senior Lieutenant Igor Mishin, who suffered serious gunshot wounds on 7 September in the Tajik town of Kulyab, died today. Both servicemen belonged to local military units of the collective peacekeeping forces. The republic's military procuracy has instituted criminal proceedings into both cases in conjunction with the law enforcement bodies of Tajikistan.

Armed Opposition Seizes Rayon Communist Office

MM1209114094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Report from ITAR-TASS, POSTFACTUM, PRAVDA "In Brief" column: "Communists Threatened With Reprisals"]

[Text] The building of the regional section of the Communist party of Tajikistan in Darvazskiy Rayon (Gornyy Badakhshan) was seized by a Tajik armed opposition formation. About 1,000 communists in the rayon have been forced to go underground, since the possibility of physical reprisals against communists in the event of open activity on their part cannot be ruled out.

Government Troops in Operation Against Opposition

LD1309152794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] The Tajik government troops are carrying out a major operation against the irreconcilable opposition in the Tal-Narin region of Tajikistan in about 300 kilometers to the east of Dushanbe.

A well-informed military source in Dushanbe told INTERFAX that the government air forces had bombed the suspected positions of the enemy today. The opposition offers hard resistance.

The offensive was launched from the Khovaling populated center and the Komsomolabad village. The same source said that the government troops continue to move forward forcing the opposition to retreat towards the Gorno-Badakhshan Region.

Experts said that there are from 1200 to 1500 militants of the Tajik opposition in the mountains.

Government, Opposition on 'Verge' of Agreement

LD1509142094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Talks between the official delegation of Tajikistan led by Abdulmadjid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan, and leaders of the opposition are continuing in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dostiyev met Sayyed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan, and Shodmon Yusuf, leader of the Democratic Party. Following the meeting, Nuri expressed satisfaction with the result of the talks. Both sides view the future with optimism. [passages omitted]

These talks are held on the eve of the third round of inter-Tajik talks due to be held in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Observers believe that the Tehran talks will lay a strong foundation for restoration of peace and tranquillity in Tajikistan. The noble people of Tajikistan want peace. No person of sound mind desires war, bloodshed, and provocation in this country. Everyone is of the opinion that all the problems will be resolved in the near future through conciliation, and that the people will get on with their lives and work in freedom and tranquility.

On the result of talks, Nabijon Karimov, press adviser to the head of state, told us the following on the telephone:

[Begin Karimov recording] Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan, today spoke on the telephone to Abdulmadjid Dostiyev, head of the government delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan at the talks with opposition leaders in Tehran.

Dostiyev informed the head of state on the progress of separate talks with the opposition leaders and the topics that have been covered during the talks. He said that the government delegation and the opposition leaders—taking into account the current social and economic situation in the republic—are on the verge of signing important (documents) designed to bring about mutual understanding and (responsibility).

The head of state gave necessary instructions to the head of the Tajik Government delegation for the resolution of important issues being placed before the delegation.

It is hoped that a cease-fire agreement covering inside the republic and the borders will be signed between the Tajik Government delegation and the opposition leaders in the coming days. [end recording]

Opposition Leader Sets Conditions for Cease-Fire

MM1509111994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "United Nations Unhappy With Tajik Opposition"]

[Text] Kh. Turandzhonzod, one of the leaders of the Tajik opposition, has stated that the opposition has agreed to a temporary (two-three month) cease-fire, but on condition that political prisoners are released, the criminal cases against government opponents are dropped, political parties are given their freedom, and military operations on the part of Russia cease. Under current conditions the opposition does not intend to end its armed struggle. He claimed that the opposition believes that Moscow's statements that Russia is taking no part in the hostilities in Tajikistan does not square with reality.

The Tajik opposition's reluctance to compromise has recently given rise to discontent on the part of the United Nations and the Iranian leadership, which is organizing talks.

The situation on the Pamir stretch of the Tajik-Afghan border remains very tense.

Rakhmonov Visits Tavildara Rayon, Meets Soldiers

LD1509121694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan, paid a visit to Khovaling, Tavildara and Komsomolabad Rayons from 12 to 14 September, where he met the leadership and people of these regions and familiarized himself with their living and working conditions.

In Tavildara, Rakhmonov also met Tajik soldiers who are fighting in the ranks of troops from the Defense, National Security, and Internal Affairs Ministries against traitors who have entered the country with arms, along with foreign mercenaries. The soldiers—youth from all corners of Tajikistan—in the ranks of the National Army, who are engaged in clearing the territory of Tavildara from the existence of mercenary fighters, spoke to the head of state about their activities.

At the present time, the majority of the enemy has been eliminated while a few have taken refuge in mountainous regions. The Tajik National Army—soldiers of the Internal Affairs, National Security, and the Defense Ministries—believe that soon they will ensure peace in those regions of Tavildara too.

Uzbekistan

'Arafat Arrives in Tashkent; Meets With Karimov

LD1509153794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1050 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Tashkent in accordance with a mutual agreement. In past years, the Palestinian leader visited Uzbekistan as a representative of Arab countries.

This time he arrived in the Central Asian country in the capacity of head of the Palestinian state although as yet diplomatic relations have not been established between Uzbekistan and Palestine at embassy level. Yasir 'Arafat was received by Uzbek President Islam Karimov. In their talks he stressed that Uzbekistan welcomes the agreements between Washington, Palestine, and Israel. Islam Karimov noted the special role of the United States and Russia, as well as of some Arab countries in a peaceful solution of the Near Eastern problems. We see Uzbek- Palestinian relations as an inalienable part of our cooperation with the Arab world.

I should add that it is not planned for Yasir 'Arafat to sign any documents with Islam Karimov on the results of the visit.

Azerbaijan

Baku Introduces Law on Martial Law

LD1409174594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Today a law on martial law came into force in Azerbaijan. During the period that it is in effect, any rallies, assemblies, or strikes are banned; citizens' freedom of movement on the republic's territory is restricted; and censorship is introduced. It is noted in the document that all these measures have been adopted—and I am quoting—in connection with the occupation of part of the territory of Azerbaijan, with the threat of a military invasion, and with the declaration of war on the republic—end quote.

According to a report from the ROSINFORM agency, Azerbaijan's leadership will inform the UN Secretary General of the scale of encroachment on citizens' rights in conditions of martial law.

Further on Azeri State of Emergency

NC1509204394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1429 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, September 15 (SNARK)— State of emergency is introduced in Azerbaijan, the high-ranking officer of Azerbaijani Embassy to Moscow Manafat Agayev has informed SNARK today. According to him, this measure is dictated by facts of mass disorder, taken place in Baku recently. Agayev has disproved information of Russian radio-stations, according to which a state of the martial law was introduced in the Republic.

To the SNARK's request to give more detailed explanation, what "state of emergency" means, Agayev said that he has no information about it.

As it was formerly informed, antistate meeting was broken up on September 10 in the capital of Azerbaijan, which was organized by the opposition National Front of Azerbaijan (NFA). As a result 196 persons were arrested, about 200 demonstrators were injured. The state secretary, the deputy chairman of the NFA Ali Kerimov was among them.

Iranian Delegation's Talks Reported

NC1509172294 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev has received the Iranian Minister of Cooperatives Gholam Reza Shafe'i, who is heading a delegation to Azerbaijan. The guest informed Aliyev that the [word indistinct] in Zanjan has dispatched 100 vehicles loaded with foodstuffs and [word indistinct] for the refugees in Azerbaijan. He also said that Geydar Aliyev's visit to Tehran has had a significant bearing on the further improvement of the relations between the two friendly and fraternal countries.

On his part, President Aliyev said that the relations between Azerbaijan and Iran are gradually improving and that they will continue to improve in the future. He said: The talks in Iran and the agreements that were signed in Tehran some time ago will contribute toward the improvement of our relations in every field. And Azerbaijan will take all necessary measures for the further improvement of the relations between the two sides.

President Aliyev also said that Azerbaijan and Iran should take steps to further improve their relations. Recalling President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's views on the friendly and fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Iran, Aliyev said that the two sides will focus special attention on realizing the important documents that have been signed between the two countries.

Several matters related to the further improvement of relations between the two sides were discussed during the meeting. Also discussed was Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Nateq Nuri's visit to Baku, which is expected to take place in November.

Speaker of the Azerbaijan National Assembly Rasul Guliyev also received the Iranian guests. He briefed them on the situation in Azerbaijan. Guliyev recalled [words indistinct]. He said: The improvement of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Iran, which is assuming a traditional nature, and the strengthening of economic relations between the two countries are important. Guliyev also said that he is convinced that additional opportunities will be created for the improvement of the multifaceted cooperation and economic relations between Azerbaijan and Iran.

The Iranian guests said that Iran is well aware of Azerbaijan's economic problems and the situation of its refugees and that it will not spare any effort in helping its neighbor. The sides discussed matters related to the laying of tracks from Astara, organization of joint marketplaces in the border rayons, construction of a cement factory in Azerbaijan, exchange of [word indistinct], and other important issues. [passage indistinct]

The guests expressed the hope that direct contacts and travel between Azerbaijan be further broadened. Gholam Reza Shafe'i reiterated his government's proposal that fraternal relations be established between Zenjan in Iran and Ganja in Azerbaijan and that direct relations be established between them.

Letter of Understanding Signed

LD1509213294 Tehran IRNA in English 2015 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Baku, Sept. 15, IRNA—A letter of understanding was signed today by the governor-general of Zanjan Province of Iran, Sajjad Kazemi, and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The letter anticipates cooperation between Zanjan Province and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the area of agriculture, education and scientific subjects as well as setting up permanent exhibitions of products of the two sides in Zanjan and Baku.

The document also anticipates exchange of officials between the Iranian Province and Azerbaijan as well as exchange of academic staffers of the University of Zanjan and the universities of Azerbaijan.

Zanjan has delivered 100 tons of wheat and 20 truckloads of flour to the cities of Lankaran and Asiya near Astara of Azerbaijan.

The cities Zanjan and Ganjeh have also been declared as sister cities.

Most cities in Azerbaijan now have problem coping with shortage of flour.

In his visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan the governor general of Zanjan Province of Iran is also accompanied by the leader of the Friday congregational prayers of Zanjan, Ayatollah Seyyed Esmail Musavi.

During his stay in Baku the governor general of the Province of Zanjan and his accompanying delegation have already met and conferred with the president of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, President of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan Rasul Guliyev, and Foreign Minister of that Republic Hasan Hasanov.

Zanjan Province has gifted 100 truckfuls of relief aid to refugees in Azerbaijan.

Defense Minister Mamedov Denies Propaganda Claims

NC1509202494 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 15 Sep 94

["Text" of statement by General Mamedrafi Mamedov, Azerbaijan's minister of defense; place and date not given]

[Text] The mass media organs have reported a statement by the Armenian Ministry of Defense to the effect that the Azerbaijan Armed Forces have fired on the residential areas in Armenia's Krasnoselskiy Rayon. The intensification of the Armenian propaganda activities has caused significant concern.

Considering that state of affairs, I have been compelled to inform the world that the Azerbaijan Armed Forces are carefully heeding the cease-fire agreement. That the Armenian Ministry of Defense should move to make such an unfounded statement when an opportunity exists to find a peaceful solution to the Karabakh dispute is regrettable.

Georgia

Abkhaz Parliament on Refugees' Return

LD1509124494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1226 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi September 15 TASS—Refugees can return to their homes only after the ceasefire and withdrawal of all Georgian armed units from the abkhazian territory. This stand was expressed by deputies of the Abkhazian Parliament in a statement adopted at an extraordinary session of the parliament of the night from Wednesday to Thursday.

Deputies believe that the safety of refugees returning to Abkhazia can be ensured by voluntary, controlled and orderly return. In this connection the Abkhazian Parliament called for strict observance of conditions of the quadripartite agreements on refugees return and expressed serious concern with the situation that formed in the Gali district.

The statement notes the danger of massive uncontrolled return of refugees as groups of saboteurs and armed units can cross to Abkhazia together with them from the territory of Georgia's Zugdidi district.

"Several staffers of the administration and law enforcement bodies of the Gali district were killed in the past few days as the result of terrorists actions in the security zone controlled by peacekeeping forces," the statement says. "The killing of two Russian officers on September 12 was the consequences of Georgian terrorists getting into the security zone."

Commander on Need To Comply With Agreements

LD1509165594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1625 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi September 15 TASS—Command of peacemaking forces does not contemplate any actions aimed at a broad-scale return of refugees to Abkhazia, Major-General Yuriy Kozlov, chief of the joint headquarters of peace-making forces, told ITAR-TASS in a telephone interview.

The return of refugees should proceed in full conformity with the reached quadrilateral agreements, Kozlov said.

Asked to comment on the situation which emerged in the Gali district the day before, he said that peace-making forces held a commanding exercise on September 13 and 14. All the military detachments returned to their stations by 14:00 GMT on September 14. At present, there are some 25 peacekeepers' outposts in the safety area in the Gali and Zugdidi districts, he said.

As to controversial situation related to the return of refugees, Kozlov pointed out that a crowd of some seven thousand refugees eager to return to their homes gathered at the banks of the Inguri River in the Zugdidi district of Georgia.

"One may sympathize with these people. The commission for the return of refugees is working too slowly, and the beginning of the return is continuously being put off. These people have been literally driven to despair," Kozlov emphasized.

However, the peace-making forces do not intend to deal with the problem of refugees' return in their own way, he added.

Meanwhile, Abkhazian armed forces are still in position of readiness, Abkhazian Ministry of Information and Press said.

Some seven thousand reserve servicemen joined the troops. Military checkpoints were set up in Sukhumi and Gali district.

The ministry's officers quoted Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev as saying today that a broad-scale return of refugees to Abkhazia would resume in two days.

Refugees' Return Attempts Thwarted

LD1509183794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Video report by correspondent M. Vardzelashvili; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Vardzelashvili] The organized return of refugees to Galskiy Rayon, that was due to begin on 14 September and which Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister had announced, did not get under way. At the last moment, when refugees had already arrived at the bridge over the Inguri River by bus, and when the major part of the armored vehicles of the Russian peacekeeping forces were moved into Galskiy Rayon to ensure their safety, an order came from Kondratyev in Sukhumi that people should not begin to cross the Inguri, since people's lives would be in danger because of the concentration of Abkhazian armed formations in Galskiy Rayon which would not permit the refugees to return. Thus, the latest attempt to organize the crossing of the Inguri by the refugees was thwarted. The main thing is that this took place when people were virtually certain that their demands would be met.

Parliament Speaker on Refugees' Return

LD1509202494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The speaker of Abkhazia's parliament Vladislav Ardzinba has described as a crude provocation the decision on the return of refugees to Abkhazia, due to begin under an agreement between Russian and Georgian officials.

Ardzinba said on national television on Thursday night that talks behind Abkhazia's back produced, contrary to the four-party agreement, a decision on the mass return to Abkhazia of people among whom there were hundreds of armed Georgian militants.

Ardzinba said he was particularly disturbed about the fact that those people were to be accompanied by peacekeeping forces (Russian - IF), which threatened to open fire in the case of resistance by Abkhazian police. He said that these circumstances had created additional risks of bloodshed.

Ardzinba warned that such actions destabilized the situation and could frustrate the peace process.

"I have to ask the Russian president in person to instruct officials in the Russian government to strictly follow the signed agreements and avoid provoking bloodshed," Ardzinba said.

Shevardnadze Meets With Russian Envoy on Killings

LD1409214094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In connection with the assassination of two Russian servicemen in Galskiy rayon on 13 September, today President Eduard Shevardnadze and Supreme Council Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze met with Vladimir Zemskiy, Russia's ambassador in Georgia. Eduard Shevardnadze expressed concern in connection with the latest terrorist act. He stated that despite the fact that the assassination took place on territory which is not controlled by Georgia's official authorities, juridically this is nevertheless Georgian territory. Therefore, by an edict of the head of state, a special commission has been set up to find out the circumstances of the incident and punish those found guilty.

However, Shevardnadze said that without the assistance of the Abkhaz leadership it will not be possible to resolve this question. Shevardnadze stated that this terrorist act is aimed both against the Russian military and against a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.

Zemskiy expressed the hope that incidents of this kind not be repeated and stated that the Russian Government will demand that the Abkhaz leadership should immediately investigate the incident.

Punishment Vowed for Killings

LD1409212394 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Excerpts] As known, on 12 September, criminals riddled with bullets a car in the village of Zemo Barghebi, Gali rayon. Peacekeeping servicemen were in the car. As a result of the attack, two officers were killed and one seriously injured. [passage omitted]

[Begin Russian Deputy Defense Minister Kondratyev recording] It is difficult for me to speak now but I have to. I am the deputy defense minister of Russia, Colonel General Kondratyev, and today I am here. I arrived at

Senaki airport yesterday. Today I have worked in Zugdidi and have been investigating the incident which I would deem as a premeditated killing of the two Russian officers. Our younger brothers, two Russian officers are dead. I, the deputy defense minister of Russia, mourn. I must carry out an investigation. I am not a prosecutor and I cannot accuse anyone today, right now—neither the Georgian side nor the Abkhaz side. I am accusing criminals, those who do not desire peace. I would like to announce today, now, with all authority, that they shall be punished. I, the deputy defense minister, swear to do this. But I would like to ask the authorities of the Republic of Georgia, although it is difficult for me to say it, but I will still say, I would like to ask you, personally, Eduard Ambrosyevich [Shevardnadze], please, order the prosecutor general of Georgia to institute criminal proceedings immediately, and to find criminals immediately. They must be punished according to the law. The lives of our Russian men who have brought peace here today, is very dear. I am in mourning today and I hope that all Georgian people will mourn the death of our Russian officers. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Appoints New Interior Troop Commander

LD1309172494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze appointed his main advisor on military issues, Colonel Giya Toradze, the Commander of the Georgian Interior Troops, the press service of the Georgian Interior Ministry told Interfax.

The former commander of interior troops, Major-General Vladimir Chikovani, was appointed the plenipotentiary representative of Georgia in the United Headquarters for Coordinating Military Cooperation between CIS countries.

Giya Toradze was born in Tbilisi in 1959. He graduated from the Tbilisi Artillery School and served in the Soviet Army in Hungary, in the Kantemirov Division. In 1988 he graduated from the Frunze Military Academy.

After the establishment of the state army in Georgia, Toradze commanded the Eleventh Brigade and the First Army Corps. He was the chief of the headquarters of the Georgian Interior Troops.

Shevardnadze Decrees Tbilisi Electricity Rationing

LD1509230194 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1658 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] In compliance with a decree by the Georgian head of state, the Tbilisi section of the Sakenergo department has issued a memorandum stating that due to the current energy crisis rationing of electricity will be introduced. All facilities of vital importance will be getting power without any limitation. Also excluded from the schedule of rationing are the large enterprises of the Industry Ministry and the Trade and Material Supplies Ministry that have separate power generating facilities. The memorandum says that all debtors will be cut off from the electricity supply without any advance warning.

As for the population, they will be getting electricity only in the morning and in the evening for five and a half hours a day.

Estonia

Paldiski Plant To Begin Removal of Fuel Rods

LD1409224794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The Interior Ministry has decided to establish a special regime on Pakri peninsula from 1000 tomorrow [15 September]. The special regime will be introduced because on 20 or 21 September, the second nuclear reactor in Paldiski will be opened up and the removal of fuel rods will begin. During this period, only permanent residents of Paldiski and Pakri peninsula, the employees of organizations located in Paldiski, and persons in possession of special permits issued by the Paldiski Commandant or the police prefecture of Harjumaa District will be allowed onto the peninsula. The special regime will continue until further notice. Juri Tikk [special Estonian representative in Paldiski] told the Baltic News Service that during the four-hour operation to raise the lid, there will be no access to Pakri peninsula; only special services involved in dismantling the reactor will be allowed in.

Tikk said that Russian specialists are to start opening up the reactor—which is the older, 70-MW capacity one—at about 0900 on 20 September. The Russian side has established 21 September as an alternative date for the work.

Unemployment Rate Drops, Remains High in Northeast

WS1509144994 Tallinn BNS in English 1221 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Tallinn, Sept 15, BNS—The official unemployment rate in Estonia dropped from 2.0 to 1.83 percent in one month ending Sept. 1, a report by the Labor Market Department says. Estonia had 15,416 officially recorded jobless as of Sept. 1, or 1,439 less than on Aug. 1.

Unemployment rates remain highest in the northeast, with 8.78 percent in the city of Narva and 5.99 percent in the nearby region, respectively. Some improvement was recorded in the southeastern region. For instance, the jobless rate declined from 4.57 to 4.20 percent in one month in the Polva region.

Unemployment remains lowest in Parnu, a western regional capital, with 0.18 percent, and in Tallinn, 0.21 percent, respectively.

Latvia

Gailis Cabinet Gets Vote of Confidence

LD1509180594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Thirty minutes ago, in a plenary session of the Saeima, following (?heated) debates lasting all day, with a vote of 49 deputies in favor, 33 against, and seven abstaining, the government formed by Maris Gailis, the candidate for the post of prime minister, was approved. The government coalition between the Latvian Way Association and the Economists' Political Association regards it as in the interest of the Latvian people and nation to determine new priorities and emphases in the work of the Cabinet of Ministers, Maris Gailis said, introducing the government declaration. Gailis mentioned as the main tasks of his government the security of the state and its citizens, which includes the strengthening of the country's defenses, the struggle against crime, corruption, and tax evasion. An important part will also be given to the development of Latvian farming and national education. The government will strive to consistently carry through legal reform.

In the sphere of Latvian foreign policy and external security, priority will be given to developing links with the European Union and its member states, with the acknowledged aim of Latvia joining the Council of Europe as soon as possible, as well as the European Union. The government sees as the strategically important tasks for Latvian agriculture an increase in goods exports, at the same time as providing the population with foodstuffs. The government will also take care to protect producers of agricultural produce, to economically stimulate manufacturing trends and regulation of its volume, with the help of the owners, self-management, cooperation and state institutions [sentence as heard]. Those are the promises of the new government.

Composition of New Government Detailed

WS1609093694 Tallinn BNS in English 1806 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Riga, Sep 15, BNS—The Latvian Saeima (parliament) voted 49-33 with seven abstentions Thursday for the Cabinet of Latvia's Way member Maris Gailis, thus, putting an end to the two- month-old government crisis.

The personal composition of the new government is as follows:

Finance Minister:	Andris Piebalgs,
Economics Minister:	Janis Zvanitajs,
Foreign Minister:	Valdis Birkavs,
Defense Minister:	Janis Arveds Trapans,
Interior Minister:	Girts Valdis Kristovskis,
Environmental Protection and Regional Development:	Juris Iesalnieks,
Justice Minister:	Romans Apsitis,
Education, Science Minister:	Janis Vaivads,
State Reforms Minister:	Vita Terauda,
Culture Minister:	Janis Dripe,
Agriculture Minister:	Arijs Udris,
Welfare Minister:	Andris Berzins,

State Minister in the Foreign Ministry:	Janis Ritenis,
Foreign Trade and European Union Affairs State Minister:	Olgerts Pavlovskis,
Baltic States and Nordic States' Affairs State Minister:	Gunars Meierovics,
Energy State Minister:	Juris Ozolins,
Privatization State Minister:	Druvis Skulte,
State Property State Minister:	Dainis Tunsts,
Credit Distribution State Minister:	Indra Samite,
Human Rights State Minister:	Janis Arvaldis Tupesis,
Communication Minister:	Andris Gutmanis,
Health State Minister:	Normunds Zemvaldis,
Forestry State Minister:	Kazimirs Slakota,
Environmental Protection State Minister:	Indulis Emsis,
Cooperation State Minister:	Vilnis Edvins Bresis.

The government crisis started July 14 when Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs officially announced that his Cabinet was stepping down following to the withdrawal of Farmers' Union (LZS) from the ruling coalition. On Aug. 18, the parliament voted down a government, formed by the Latvian National Conservative Party LNNK representative Andrejs Krastins.

Lithuania

Russia's Krylov Arrives for Trade Talks

LD1509213994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov arrives in Vilnius Thursday night, the Latvian Foreign Ministry press center told Interfax.

Foreign policy advisor to the Lithuanian president, Justas Paleckis, said this visit, which nothing was reported about previously, must promote the elimination of the last obstacles to a trade and economic agreement between our two countries and the mutual granting of most-favored-nation status in trade.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his Lithuanian counterpart, Adolfas Slezevicius, signed a bilateral trade and economic agreement in November 1993. However, the agreement has never been enacted as the Russian side links it with the resolution of the issue of transit to the Kaliningrad Region, a Russian exclave, through Lithuania.

In the meantime, Russian Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko, arriving on a visit to Lithuania recently, said the trade agreement will be enacted by the end of September, before an agreement on transit is signed.

According to an official report, Krylov will meet Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys Friday morning to be followed by a meeting with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas. After the meetings, Krylov will give a news conference.

On September 17-18, Krylov will make a trip to a number of Lithuanian cities.

Government Reduces Budget by 23 Million Litas

LD1509162394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Funding from the state to organizations from September through December has been reduced by almost 23 million litas. According to a 13 September government decision, reductions are introduced on the acquisition of the main means [as heard]. The decision is aimed at ensuring the financing of urgent measures.

According to this document, only funds for the purchasing of medical equipment are not being reduced.

In August, the government reduced the budget by 10 percent. This will make it possible to save approximately 10.5 million litas by the end of the year.

Such measures have been applied by the Seimas ministers in view of a substantial deficit in the state budget. Currently it amounts to almost 135 million litas. In addition, in eight months of this year 235 million litas were not paid to the budget.

The most substantial reductions until the end of the year are: to the National Defense Ministry—5.8 million litas, to the Internal Affairs Ministry—6.6 million litas. Also, allocations are reduced to all higher educational institutions and research institutes, to the Supreme Court and other courts, to the Procuracy and to some other institutions, including Lithuanian radio and television.

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